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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-243
Monday
19 December 1994

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-243 *19 December 1994*

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No Agreement Reached on Israel's Signing NPT

TA1612180394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Dec 94 p A4

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Sharon Sade]

[FBIS Translated Text] The working teams at the multilateral arms control talks in Tunis concluded their discussions yesterday. Although the participants reached agreement on most of the topics discussed during the conference, they failed to agree on the final wording of a declaration defining security relations in the Middle East. The differences mainly involved Israel's signing the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT).

According to defense sources, the negotiations' major achievement was agreement on the establishment of three regional security and conflict-prevention centers, which will be stationed in Amman, Tunis, and Qatar. A working document was also prepared on the need for prior notification of military exercises, and it was decided that the main regional communications center on arms-control-related issues would be stationed in Cairo.

Israel's proposal to host Arab representatives at military installations and defense industry factories was received warmly, and some of the Arab delegations, including Egypt, Jordan, and apparently also the Palestinians, expressed interest in visiting Israel. Defense sources clarified that no format or agenda had yet been set for the visits.

Although Egypt stiffened its demand that Israel join the NPT, it remained isolated in its position. Israel reiterated its refusal to join the NPT. Israel submitted a compromise proposal for Egypt's perusal. The Israeli proposal, which had the backing of the United States and other countries, received no response. Defense sources therefore voiced the assessment that discussions on the matter would continue until the next round of talks in June 1995. The NPT is scheduled to be renewed in April 1995, and its content may greatly influence the wording of the declaration issued by the participants at the multilateral talks on arms control.

Multilateral Talks on Refugees End in Antalya

TA1612094994 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 2110 GMT 15 Dec 94

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] The seventh round meeting of the Middle East multilateral refugees working group has ended in Antalya. A communique issued at the end of the meeting noted that positive decisions were made during the talks with regard to bettering the living conditions of refugees in Palestine, the Gaza Strip, and other areas.

A project submitted by Turkey proposing vocational training for Palestinian refugees and enabling them to establish their own businesses triggered wide interest at the meeting. The project envisages the implementation in Palestine of a plan similar to the one applied for Bulgarian immigrants in Turkey. It will cost $20 million and will be realized over a period of three years.

Approximately 200 delegates representing 40 countries attended the meeting, which lasted three days.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel To Accept Hamas Participation in Elections

TA1612134494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Dec 94 p 1

[Text by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel will drop its opposition to the participation of most Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members in elections for the Palestinian self-rule council, Israeli negotiators told their Palestinian counterparts in Cairo at this week's round of negotiations, which ended yesterday.

Israel will confine its objection to the participation of the Hamas terror wing 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam. Furthermore, Israel will object to those Palestinians, such as extremist imams, who incite terror, according to Israeli diplomats involved in the Cairo talks.

"In principle, we see the elections as their internal matter," a diplomat who participated in the talks said last night upon returning here. "We are not against Hamas per se. But, we are against those specific Hamas people who are involved or were involved in terrorism. This message has been passed on to the Palestinians in Cairo."

Until now, Israel has insisted that Hamas rewrite its charter, deleting its call for the destruction of Israel, before members would be allowed to participate in the elections.

Estimates of Palestinians in the territories identifying with Hamas range from 15 percent to 35 percent.

Officials added, however, that no headway was made on the dispute regarding IDF redeployment away from Palestinian population centers in the territories before these elections.

Officials say Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat are expected to meet next week to discuss the issue.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said there would be a meeting at "the highest level," before the next round, but no date was fixed.

PA Negotiator on Elections Committee Meeting

JN1812153894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1103 GMT 18 Dec 94

[Report by Hasan Abu-Zayid in Gaza; from the "With the Midday Events" program]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian negotiations committee has held an emergency meeting in which it discussed Israel's stand on the redeployment of the [Israeli] Defense Forces [IDF] in the territories in preparation for holding the elections. The session came in the wake of a statement issued by the Palestinian Authority [PA] last night in which it strongly criticized the Israeli stand. On this session, Mr. Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations and director general of the negotiations department in the PA, says the following:

[Begin recording] ['Asfur] Brother President Yasir 'Arafat called for an emergency meeting of the higher committee for following up elections to discuss the developments facing the Palestinian stand in light of the recent talks, whether those held in Oslo, Stockholm, or Cairo, in which the Israeli side stated its positions to us. We believe that these positions completely contradict the Declaration of Principles [DOP] agreement. We feel that the Israeli side is trying to evade the agreement signed between us, thus putting the entire peace process in a political dilemma. We cannot remain silent over this issue. Therefore, it was necessary to hold this meeting to face all possibilities and future developments of the peace process.

[Abu-Zayid] Did you make any decisions in this meeting?

['Asfur] Some steps were formulated and specified, some of which were announced and others remain confined to the Palestinian political movement.

[Abu-Zayid] Mr. Hasan 'Asfur, do you think that the Palestinian and Israeli positions will come close to each other as regards elections?

['Asfur] We believe that the Israeli side is fully aware of its responsibility in this regard based on an agreement that is binding to both sides. We have submitted a Palestinian concept based on the letter and spirit of the DOP. The Israeli side should proceed from this concept also in a manner that would serve the peace process away from political games and away from tactics, and maneuvers that are useless and that will only harm this process. The Israeli side will not gain from this whether on the domestic or external levels.

[Abu-Zayid] Tomorrow or in the next few days, President 'Arafat and Israel's prime minister will meet. Do you think that the issue of the IDF redeployment will be solved in these meetings?

['Asfur] If such a meeting takes place, brother President Yasir 'Arafat will state the complete Palestinian position as expressed in the Palestinian National Authority's statement issued yesterday and what was emphasized by the higher committee on elections which was convened under brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]

[Abu-Zayid] Mr. Hasan 'Asfur, director general of elections directorate in the Palestinian Authority, thank you very much.

['Asfur] You are welcome. [end recording]

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Official Views Normalization With Israel

NC1612121194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ashur Usman, assistant Arab League secretary general for political affairs, has stressed that normalizing Arab-Israeli relations requires establishing a comprehensive and durable peace based on the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and joint Arab action. He noted that achieving some form of normalization with Israel heightens its intransigence and makes it more difficult to force Israel to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

In an interview with AL-'ALAM AL-YAWM today, he said he hopes some Arab parties will reconsider the hazards of this approach and will set out a condition that the occupied Arab territories be liberated before engaging in any form of normalization.

He said Israel depends on procrastination, avoids implementing what is required of her, and seeks to achieve gains on every track, using the lack of inter-Arab coordination and U.S. pressure on Arab parties.

The Arab League assistant secretary general said he believes that relations among the Middle Eastern countries, Turkey, and Iran are more important than relations with Israel and should be based on an open, integrated economic policy with other countries.

He emphasized that there is no need to set up any Middle Eastern organization; that way things will remain confined to bilateral trade exchanges according to the interests of the parties concerned.

Islamic Affairs

Reportage of Seventh ICO Summit Events

ICO Final Communique Issued

LD1612150894 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1307 GMT 15 Dec 94

[Final communique issued by Seventh ICO Summit in Casablanca—live, in French, read by Senegalese Foreign Minister Moustapha Niasse]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The final communique of the seventh summit of the Islamic Conference, the summit of brotherhood and renaissance.

Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, 03-12 Rajab, 1415 AH, 13-15 December 1994.

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On invitation of His Majesty Hassan II, king of Morocco, the seventh summit of the Islamic Conference was held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, under the banner of brotherhood and cooperation.

The seventh summit of the Islamic Conference coincided with the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO). The conference summit was preceded by the meeting in Casablanca of the 25th Islamic conference of the Foreign Ministers from 1-6 Rajab 1410 AH.

Fifty member states of the ICO and its bodies and its specialized and affiliated institutions took part in the proceedings of the summit. Those invited as observers are: The Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Moro National Liberation Front, the Turkish-Cypriot Muslim community of Cyprus, the international and regional organizations, particularly the United Nations, the League of Arab States, the Movement of the Non-Aligned countries, the Organization of Economic Cooperation, and the Arab Maghreb Union.

Also invited to the conference were the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, the Sandjak, and the authority representatives of the Kashmiri people and several Islamic associations and foundations.

His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal, as president of the sixth summit of the Islamic Conference, made a speech in which he reviewed the achievements of the ICO during the three years of his mandate at the helm of the organization, in the political, economic, cultural, and social fields as well as the field of information. He expressed his gratitude and thanks to the leaders of the member states and to the secretary general for their complete cooperation in the accomplishment of his exciting mission. He said that the rally to the Sahel population should be one of the backbones of the strengthening of Islamic solidarity.

On the suggestion of His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco was unanimously elected chairman of the seventh summit of the Islamic Conference and His Excellency Yasir Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, His Excellency, Lansana Conte, president of the Republic of Guinea, and His Excellency Khaleda Zia, prime minister of Bangladesh, were elected vice presidents of the conference. His Excellency Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal, was elected rapporteur general of the summit.

The conference was opened by His Majesty Hassan II, king of Morocco, who, in his inaugural speech, welcomed the sovereigns, emirs, heads of state and government of member states and underscored the importance of consolidating non-Islamic solidarity which should enable the seventh summit, on which more than one billion Muslims pin great hopes, to make decisions which will reinforce the unity of the Islamic umma in a climate of harmony and concord. His Majesty King Hassan II recalled that the message of Islam calls for the peaceful coexistence of nations, universal understanding and respect for the dignity of man without any distinction between human beings. His Majesty King Hassan II stressed that no person and no authority can confer on themselves what has not conferred on them by religion, nor should they take the path of extremism or have recourse to aggression in thought and in practice, give themselves the right to make judgements, to excommunicate Muslims, or to devise forces in order to combat Muslims.

His majesty the king also said that Islam is not merely a religion. It encompasses everything and constitutes, as ordered by the prophet Muhammad, may our prayers and the peace of God be upon him, a range of rules for human relations founded on good behavior, moral values, tolerance, joyfulness, and peace. The behavior of certain groups whose attitudes are at variance with Islamic tolerance has caused a frenzied campaign against Islam. His majesty the king expressed satisfaction with the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the setting up of the ICO.

Following this, His Excellency Dr. Ekmel Ogdhal, secretary-general of the ICO, made a speech in which he paid tribute to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, who again hosted this important meeting of the leaders of the Islamic nation. He said that the populations of Central Asia and those of the African Sahel, who have been the victims of natural disasters, legitimately expect a different solution from member states. He said that the ICO, which has 51 member states, cannot be ignored in the search for solutions to the great problems of the time. He said that the return of Holy Jerusalem to Palestinian sovereignty, the restitution of Syrian Golan, respect for the sovereignty of Lebanon, full realization of the legitimate aspirations of the people of Kashmir for freedom, an end to the Serb aggression against Bosnia, an end to the occupation of part of the territory of Azerbaijan by Armenia, together with the search for peace in Afghanistan and Somalia should receive equal, thought-out, and determined support from member states.

Finally his excellency the secretary-general thanked the chairmen of the Jerusalem Committee, the Permanent Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs, the Permanent Committee for Economic and Trade Cooperation, and the Permanent Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

Conference decided to consider the speech of His Majesty King Hassan II as an official document of the conference. Conference then approved the report of the preparatory committee of the ministers of foreign affairs, as well as the report on the summit's agenda. Conference admitted the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as an observer-member. Following a proposal by His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco,

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Israeli enemy murders children and blows up houses which is a firm policy of the Israeli enemy and the latest of which took place two days ago when a house belonging to a Palestinian Arab family in occupied Palestine was blown up and also the acts of aggression being carried out by the Israeli enemy in south Lebanon.

The secretary affirmed that "the Israeli enemy threatens international peace and security by having an atomic bomb, refusing to sign the non-nuclear proliferation treaty and weapons of mass destruction and to refusal to comply with the Security Council Resolution 487 which ordered it to withdraw within 24 hours. Although more than 24 years passed on this resolution, the Israeli enemy refused to adhere to it and to other resolutions passed by the Security Council against it.

The secretary pointed out that "the European will about the common interest. But we have given everything away on a golden plate through the Arab oil, the Suez canal, Bab al Mandab (Strait of Aden) and the Gibraltar Strait which links Arabs to Europe due to its strategic position and it is the link for communication between the continents of the world. And European companies number in their thousands in the Arab homeland. But these things therefore cannot by Arabs or the Israeli enemy.

Also the secretary referred to the statement by the American President to journalist after his meeting with the prime minister of the Israeli enemy expressing the unlimited support of the American administration for Israeli enemy and support of its programme to develop the Lavi missile in the coming year.

The secretary said "the efforts which America have been, and still, in favour of the Israeli enemy to develop its weapons and missiles so as to wage them against our capitals for it has no enemy in the region except as for which the Israeli enemy is developing weapons of mass destruction especially America is serving the people of Iraq and setting up control towers to monitor with sound and pictures any movements by Iraq.

The secretary pointed to the dangers threatening the Arab nation and the Muslim world in general and occupied Palestine and Jerusalem in particular as a result of the policy of aggression which the Israeli enemy has ever adopted following in breach and encroachment on the sacred values and shrines of Islam in violation of the rights of Muslims and Arabs without any respect for the principles and laws which the international community is founded. Also the Israeli enemy disregards all the resolutions passed by international organizations and has at all levels also the secretary said the some Arab countries were walking to break the economic embargo on the Israeli enemy which was the only card left in our hands and that these countries are walking to consolidate their relations with the Israeli enemy as a result of pressure on them by America, England and other Western countries.

The secretary added "while some of our countries are walking to lift the embargo on the enemy and set up Middle Eastern market, the Israelis and the West are tightening the economic measures against us as a result of unparalleled unjust resolution they are imposing on us.

The secretary concluded the speech of the Great Jamahiriyah to the Islamic summit conference by saying "we must today at this Islamic summit after a quarter century passed on our Islamic organization as we feel that at this moment we have major duties towards the Islamic world and in the world we live to work for genuine solidarity between our countries and peoples and promote the real spirit of Islam in our life, the lofty values of jihad for justice, tolerance in responses and cooperation for what is good and towards the world around us by genuine contribution towards fair security and putting an end to oppression, aggression, injustice and tyranny and that we should be refuge place for those who are working for a world in which freedom and happiness prevail and for this to be the sun which will shine for all.

Afghan President's Activities Praised

[redacted]

[redacted] Translated Text] Esteemed professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, who is now in Morocco to take part in the session of the Islamic Countries Organization, has recently delivered a speech at a session of this conference.

According to a report, the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan has separately met a number of the heads of states and governments of the Islamic countries. At the meetings, the President asked for cooperation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The esteemed president asked the Islamic countries to coordinate their efforts with the UN endeavours and thus to cooperate on the restoration of peace and cessation of fighting in the Islamic country of Afghanistan.

Esteemed professor Burhanuddin Rabbani met Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Esteemed Rahmonov, president of Tajikistan, Suleyman Demirel, president of Turkey, Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of Iran, and a number of other heads of the Islamic countries.

At a meeting with Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of Iran, the said foreign minister invited esteemed Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani to pay a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The esteemed president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in expressing appreciation for Iran's endeavours in the restoration of peace in Afghanistan, accepted the invitation extended by the Iranian foreign minister and said that he would visit Iran in an appropriate time.

[redacted] Accomplishments Praised

[redacted]

[redacted] Translated Text] Casablanca, Dec. 19 [redacted]— The 19 Islamic conference praised the accomplishments

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made by the Islamic Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and requested it to pursue its efforts to achieve its noble goals.

The Islamic summit which closed proceedings Thursday [15 December] in Casablanca commended the special Islamic programme for literacy and basic training for all Islamic countries as well as the programme relating to the transcription of Moslem people's languages using Arabic script, which are both devised by ISESCO. The conference also called for broadening the scope of the Arabic script programme to cover the rest of Islamic countries and asked for supporting the Islamic organization and providing all assistance and facilities for implementing this project.

The Islamic summit's committee for economic, cultural and social affairs paid tribute to ISESCO's achievements in the consolidation and development of cooperation relations with Islamic and international organizations. Commending the efforts expended by the organization in support for the Islamic University in Niger, the committee requested ISESCO to expand this support in favor of other Islamic institutes and universities.

The 7th Islamic conference likewise praised the initiative taken by the Islamic organization to set up Al-Quds al-Sharif unit within ISESCO and commended the activities implemented with respect to safeguarding cultural property in this holy city.

In its recommendations, the Islamic summit paid tribute to the programme being implemented by ISESCO within the framework of cooperation between the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] and the UN systems, namely, in basic education and training for human resource development in the Islamic countries. The conference called on the Islamic institutions, particularly the Islamic Development Bank, to contribute in sponsoring this project.

The 7th Islamic summit's committee urged the member states which had not yet settled their shares in ISESCO's budget to hasten in honoring their financial obligations in order to enable the organization to implement its programmes [and] educational, scientific and cultural activities. The committee described these programmes and projects of paramount importance for joint Islamic action in the vital areas of safeguarding the Moslem ummah's identity and countering external challenges.

It also appealed to the Islamic countries which were not members of the Islamic organization to hasten to join the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The Casablanca Declaration of the 7th Islamic conference stressed the necessity of supporting the institutions operating in the field of joint Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.[as received] The declaration called for the development of these institutions in such a way as to achieve the objectives assigned to them in appreciation for the civilizational role they are playing at the level of Islamic world.

Corrections to ICO 'Final Communique'

WA1903143094

This correction pertains to the item headlined "ICO Summit Issues Final Communique," published in the 16 December Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT Supplement, page 1:

Please make headline read: ICO Summit Issues 'Casablanca Declaration'... (correcting headline)

Please make subslug read: ["Casablanca Declaration" issued by the Seventh Islamic Conference Organization Summit in Casablanca on 15 December—live; read by unidentified official] ...(correcting subslug)

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Returns; Kanafani on ICO Summit

JN3012174394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat returned to the homeland a short while ago.

The following is a telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, media adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, in Gaza:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Marwan, good evening.

[Kanafani] Good evening.

[Correspondent] Praise be to God for your safe return [from Morocco].

[Kanafani] Thank you.

[Correspondent] Did you arrive a short while ago?

[Kanafani] We have just arrived. The president is still talking to the children, who are in white uniforms, and is listening to the songs presented by school children.

The president spent several hours in Cairo before returning to Gaza and to the homeland. He discussed current issues and developments in the next phase of the talks with the Egyptian foreign minister.

[Correspondent] Marwan, what is your assessment of the Seventh Islamic Summit resolutions?

[Kanafani] I would like to say that the president's presence at the Seventh Islamic Summit was important, because, once again, he was able to draw the Islamic summit's attention to the main Islamic and Arab issue, namely, the Palestinian issue, and issues related to Israeli withdrawal and the implementation of the Oslo accords.

President Yasir 'Arafat met with all the presidents and the prime ministers who attended the conference and

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explained to the them the importance of the expeditious implementation of the second phase and the safe implementation of the Declaration of Principles, so that we can extend the Palestinian National Authority to all occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian state.

The Islamic summit resolutions came to express the support of the Islamic and Arab nation for the demands of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian Authority, and the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

[Correspondent] The conference reiterated that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state and President 'Arafat praised this decision.

[Kanafani] There is no doubt that the seventh Islamic summit conference has reiterated the Palestinian National Authority's firm, principled decision that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state and that it is an integrated part of this state. The Seventh Islamic Summit reiterated these facts in a clear way.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. Marwan Kanafani, media adviser to President 'Arafat. Praise be to God for your safe return and the safe return of the president.

[Kanafani] Thank you. [end recording]

'Arafat Lauds Saudi Support, Comments on Jerusalem

JN1812181394 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 16 Dec 94 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has reaffirmed his gratitude to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy places, for his ceaseless efforts to help and support the Palestine question.

In an exclusive statement to AL-JAZIRAH at the conclusion of the opening session of the Islamic summit conference at the Royal Palace in Casablanca, 'Arafat said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—king, government, and people—has continued to provide material and moral support to the Palestine people. He added that this Islamic summit will help the Arabs and Muslims to establish their rights to Holy Jerusalem, the first qiblah, the third holiest place, and the point from which Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, ascended to heaven.

[AL-JAZIRAH] You have been elected as deputy chairman of the current Islamic summit. What role are you expected to play?

['Arafat] I have been honored by my brothers who named me permanent deputy chairman of the current session of the Islamic Conference Organization. I take pride in this honor bestowed on me by my brothers. This will increase our responsibilities toward all the issues of our Arab and Muslim nations and toward the Muslims' issue—holy Jerusalem, the first qiblah and the third holiest place, in which I hope we will all pray, God willing.

[AL-JAZIRAH] There has been a lot of talk during this summit about Jerusalem. How do you envisage the future of this holy city in the light of the negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis?

['Arafat] The only thing I can say now is to repeat a verse from the Holy Koran which reads: "And to enter your temple as they had entered it before, and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power."

[AL-JAZIRAH] What about the dispute between you and the Jordanians over the supervision of the holy sites in Jerusalem?

['Arafat] Jerusalem has been the capital of Palestine since time immemorial, since the Canaanites until now.

More on Saudi 'Role'

LD1712221494 Riyadh SPA in English 1938 GMT 17 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Dec 17, SPA—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has lauded the important role undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the functions of the recent OIC's [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] summit conference in Casablanca.

'Arafat said the Saudi role had remarkably backed the Palestinian position during debate on the Palestinian and al-Quds [Jerusalem] issues.

'Arafat made the remarks in a statement broadcast by the radio of the Palestinian National Authority on Saturday.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the wise directives of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz is always leading in terms of support for the Palestinian question on various Arab, Islamic and international forums." president 'Arafat said.

'Arafat returned to Gaza last night after he led the Palestinian delegation to the 7th Islamic Summit conference which ended on Thursday.

'Arafat Confers With U.S., Others on Israel

JN1812180494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Dec 94

[Report by radio correspondent 'Adil al-Za'nun in the Gaza Strip]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO and head of the [Palestinian] National Authority, met with a number of European delegations at the presidency in Gaza today.

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He briefed them on the obstacles Israel is placing to hinder the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. These obstacles are represented by the Israeli positions on redeploying the Israeli occupation troops away from the Palestinian cities and villages, as well as the issue of holding the legislative elections.

President 'Arafat met with the U.S. consul in Jerusalem. He also met with the Russian ambassador to Israel and the consuls of the European Union states.

Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President 'Arafat's adviser, said the president explained to these delegations the seriousness of the Israeli positions which point to a change regarding the Palestinian- Israeli DOP. These Israeli positions surfaced during the recent meetings. He pointed out that these positions aim to change the basis of the DOP, particularly relating to redeployment and legislative elections.

Abu-Rudaynah asserted that this Israeli position indicates a clear breach and violation of the bases of the peace process.

President 'Arafat handed the delegations letters to the heads of their states on the seriousness of the Israeli position.

On another level, Marwan Kanafani, official spokesman for President 'Arafat and his media adviser, has stated that the policy of confiscating Palestinian territories by the Israeli authorities in the West Bank does not serve the peace process and does not conform to the stipulations of the Palestinian-Israeli DOP.

Kanafani asserted that the recent confiscation by the Israeli authorities of Palestinian land in Sur Bahir in East Jerusalem does not reflect the kind of peace sought by the Palestinians—president, authority, and people.

'Arafat Promises To Increase Teacher Salaries

JN1912074194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has said our Palestinian people, who have had an important role in the Arab nation's development and who possess creative skills, will build this Palestinian state. He added: We will challenge the entire world with this state.

His excellency emphasized that it will be a democratic and pluralistic Palestinian state that belongs to no party or faction but to all the Palestinian people.

His excellency said the National Authority opens its heart and arms to all. He said the establishment of the Palestinian homeland depends on the Palestinian people, and that we will build this homeland with this people's blood, sweat, and efforts.

His excellency President 'Arafat said this at a ceremony in al-Azhar University in Gaza yesterday on Palestinian teachers' day. His excellency described the teacher as an impregnable bastion and praised the efforts of teachers from both sexes. His excellency promised to increase their salaries as of the beginning of next month.

Qaddumi Comments on PA, Peace Process

TA1612195494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ (HA'ARETZ supplement) in Hebrew 16 Dec 94 pp 40, 42, 108

[Report on interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of PLO Executive Committee's Political Department, by correspondent Suha 'Arraf in Qaddumi's office in Tunis; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tunis—Faruq Qaddumi, who holds the title of foreign minister of the PLO, has turned in recent months into a magnet attracting 'Arafat's opponents in Fatah. Since 1973 Qaddumi has headed the PLO's Political Department, which this year changed its name to "the foreign ministry." The establishment of the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Gaza and Jericho did not bring about the closure of his office in Tunis. Other PLO offices continue to operate here. The foreign ministry's 55-person staff went without a salary for three months, until the ministry managed to raise the money itself ($5 million, the source of which remains secret).

Qaddumi, one of the five founding members of Fatah and the only one other than 'Arafat that is still alive, used to represent the pro-Soviet and pro—Syrian line in the Fatah leadership. He objected to the contacts his colleagues had with the Israeli Zionists and made sure not to attend any such meetings. Qaddumi opposed the Oslo agreement from the very outset and did not change his opinion even after the establishment of the PA. He stayed behind in his office in Tunis, from where he follows what he regards as the mess 'Arafat and his colleagues have gotten themselves into.

This is the first time he has agreed to be interviewed for an Israeli paper. The depth of the chasm with 'Arafat and his colleagues, as well as his desire not to broaden it so as to leave the door open for those who grow disappointed with 'Arafat, can be discerned from his diplomatic formulations (and Qaddumi is the PLO's No. 1 diplomat). There are grounds to his hope that the daily grind in Gaza and Jericho will prove him right. After all, some of his friends—such as Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], one of the architects of the Oslo agreement—have already returned to Tunis disappointed.

"The intifadah is what strengthened us," he says. "It tightened the ties between the Palestinians outside and inside the territories, while the Oslo agreement drove us apart. We did not cut our relations with our friends; we allowed them to go through with this experience; we stayed in touch; we argued—but we did not agree with their way of thinking." [passage omitted]

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'Arafat's supporters now say that Qaddumi remains stuck in the past, with slogans and analyses that may have suited the situation 20 years ago. Each time Fatah and the PLO tried to update their platform and adapt to the changes, some members left or split up, and all of them vanished within the rejectionist groups and lost all popular support. Who can today remember Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] who rebelled against the Fatah leadership, or Khalid al-Fahum who is now in Damascus and continues to claim to be the chairman of the Palestine National Council?

Qaddumi also knows that, and he denies the rumors that he and his friends in Tunis are setting up a separate organization. "No, that is not true," he says. "We are trying to improve the conduct of the leadership."

['Arraf] What part of the PLO stayed in Tunis?

[Qaddumi] The basis stayed.

['Arraf] What does that mean?

[Qaddumi] The foreign ministry, the political department, the refugees department, the communications ministry—everything.

['Arraf] The word is that 'Arafat would like to remove you from Tunis.

[Qaddumi] I do not think he will dare do such a thing. It will cause him many problems.

['Arraf] Why did you actually object to the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Qaddumi] I felt this agreement did not even begin to meet our minimal requirements. I was not the only one who objected to the agreement and to relocating to Gaza; other colleagues also did. Those who thought this move was the beginning of the liberation that would later expand to a larger territory must now admit that they were wrong. What is happening today shows the exact opposite: Israel is piling more and more obstacles before the Palestinians. Under the excuse that they are putting this miserable agreement into practice, the Israelis actually continue to confiscate land and refuse to release Palestinian prisoners. The Israeli army continues to go wild, and this is compounded by the prolonged closure imposed on the Gaza Strip. Moreover, Rabin has been pressuring the Palestinian government to confront Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad to bring about the eruption of a civil war. The Jews are quite sure that this is what will happen.

['Arraf] Do you think that the clash outside the mosque in Gaza was a result of that pressure?

[Qaddumi] Yes, it was a Zionist plan. The role of the Palestinian policeman is to see to the welfare of the people, not to beat them up. We must always remember that our enemy is the Israeli occupation, which we must continue to fight through the blessed intifadah. This is our recommendation to the local leadership, because this is the only thing that can mend our political path. Only the intifadah can raise our people to a more advanced stage. We have a lot of work to do; we must close our ranks to build our institutions and society and not to fight each other. An internal struggle would make us forget who our enemy is, and we would thus be serving its interests.

['Arraf] Is there serious danger of a civil war?

[Qaddumi] No, there will be disturbances here and there, but our people have a very high consciousness and will not allow it. What will happen is that the current government will fall as a result of these disturbances. As Palestinians, we must understand that the central enemy is Israel and that the conflicts between the factions are not over matters of principle but over marginal issues. Throughout this period, which is a transition period, there has been immense political pressure. We must understand that signing an agreement does not mean that peace has come, but that we have moved from a tough time to a more complicated period during which we must present a strategic plan that will underscore our goals in the transition period. Most of our objectives remain unchanged, objectives such as ending the prolonged Israeli occupation, which is the foremost sacred goal; upholding the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; and the activities necessary for being able to control the area through construction and renovation.

['Arraf] Did you not fulfill those goals in Gaza and Jericho?

[Qaddumi] My friends' going to Gaza is an historic transition in the annals of the Palestinian struggle. However, we cannot be satisfied with it. Gaza is a ghetto where the Palestinian people live.

['Arraf] And what do you propose?

[Qaddumi] What we see today is the result of the negative situation in which the entire Arab nation encounters itself, and it denotes national weakness. However, this situation is also a clear sign that we are getting closer to a comprehensive solution, to a very strong national intifadah.

['Arraf] I am still not clear about the solution you propose.

[Qaddumi] National dialogue is the only way to solve political problems. We must solve those problems as brothers, as adults and as understanding people. Everybody, including the Palestinian government, must understand that we work as a team in one single national framework with one strategic goal. The use of arms to solve problems is a deviation from the national code, and it harms our noble goal as Palestinians with a long history of struggle.

['Arraf] If so, what prevented you from going to Gaza?

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[Qaddumi] If my going there hinges on the approval of the occupiers I have been fighting, I refuse to go there. That is inconceivable.

['Arraf] What future do you foresee for Israel?

[Qaddumi] Israel's existence is a very serious problem, it is a state built on the destruction of another people. Israeli society will no longer grow and expand naturally as all other societies. The Israelis suffer many contradictions because of their internal problems, because there is more than one language and many ethnic groups in Israel. These problems will worsen and become more acute as time goes by and will find expression in political organizations or their leaders, each of whom sees the future differently.

['Arraf] Do you think Israel will lose its advantage in the Middle East?

[Qaddumi] We all know that the world supports Israel. Therefore, it will manage to attain some of its goals, but not for long. It will not be able to go on being an occupier. In this day and age, man is the most central and decisive factor; he dictates reality, not the number of weapons. The Soviet Union had 33,000 nuclear bombs, and it collapsed. Israel's lot will be similar. There is an historical necessity: History dictates itself.

['Arraf] If that is the case, what is your problem with the agreement?

[Qaddumi] It is not my problem, but the problem of the Middle East. The Jewish-Arab conflict will end only when the prisoners are released, all Palestinian refugees return, settlements are dismantled, and the Palestinian people's right to self-definition is recognized. The main problem is that of the refugees; if this problem is not solved, there will be no peace in the Middle East.

['Arraf] You all seem to ignore the problem of the Palestinians living in Israel. What will become of them?

[Qaddumi] We cannot treat the Palestinians of 1948 as we treat Gaza and Jericho because we would be bringing upon ourselves unnecessary problems and troubles. They are doing quite well for themselves with the opportunities available to them. We cannot dictate to them what their fate will be. [passage omitted]

Official Denies Reports on Israeli Withdrawal

JN1712180594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, media adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, has denied the recent reports on an agreement for an Israeli withdrawal from Janin. Abu-Rudaynah added that the Palestinian stand vis-a-vis the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles signed between the Palestinian and Israeli sides is very clear. This stand is represented by the redeployment of the Israeli occupation forces in the occupied West Bank and the holding of legislative elections. His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has called for implementing the agreements and holding elections as soon as possible. Abu-Rudaynah said that any attempt to partition, or delay, the implementation of the accords is considered a violation of the agreements concluded between the PLO and Israel.

Authority Warns Against Israeli Evasion of DOP

JN1712185494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat today chaired the weekly meeting of the National Authority's [NA] Council of Ministers. The council adopted many resolutions related to developments in the peace process and Israeli attempts to avoid the requirements of peace. More details about the NA Council of Ministers meeting are in the following report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The council listened to a report presented by the president about the meetings held with Israeli officials in Norway, Sweden, and Cairo. It was stressed that Israel is attempting to avoid implementing the Declaration of Principles [DOP] as well as attempting to belittle the importance of the issue by holding elections with certain (?measures), represented by handing over some authorities while keeping the situation as it is.

Following the meeting, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, [secretary general of the Palestinian Authority], said that the Council of Ministers unanimously agreed that there can be no elections without the withdrawal of Israeli forces, as stipulated by the agreement on the transitional period. The council also agreed that withdrawal should be once and for all.

Moreover, the council agreed to reject this Israeli retreat from the DOP. It reiterated its adherence to implementing the concluded agreements in letter and spirit so that the peace process continues on the right track. The council also demanded that the Israeli Government stop the attempts and maneuvers aimed at (?changing) the essence of the accord. It said that compromise solutions between the DOP and the recent Israeli stand are fully rejected.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim added that this Israeli stand places the entire process in a predicament and that the issue is more than a misunderstanding vis-a-vis the negotiations because it represents a change in the essence of the negotiations. He said: We, in the Palestinian Authority, refuse to subject the issue to Mr. Rabin's mood or to the narrow concepts on security stated by some Israeli Army generals. Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim said that if some think that through these ambitions and attempts they can change the essence of the peace process and the texts of the signed agreements, and if they think they are exercising pressure on the NA, then we emphasize that they are under an illusion about the possibility of pushing us off

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the track through maneuvers or of making us relinquish the DOP, which does not respond to all our ambitions and aspirations. The Israeli side should be willing to pay the necessary dues. He said: If, during the upcoming meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin, Mr. Rabin and the Israeli side do not change the ideas they presented to the Palestinian side in previous meetings, then the entire process will face a dilemma and its negative repercussions on all levels.

The council asserted that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] adheres to the concluded agreements and calls on those concerned to show interest in order to get out of this dilemma. In this regard, the PNA praised the fraternal Egyptian side's willingness to exert all possible efforts to bring issues back on the right track.

'Abd-al-Rahim said that the council adopted the following resolution:

The PNA's Council of Ministers views with very serious concern the Israeli stand demonstrated during recent meetings—a stand that calls for changing the bases of the DOP, especially in terms of the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces, their redeployment outside populated areas, the expansion of Palestinian jurisdiction to the West Bank, the transfer of all authorities, and the review of regulations and laws. 'Abd-al-Rahim said: In its resolution, the PNA considers this a violation of the bases of the peace process and an actual obstruction of the course of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. He added that the PNA will deal with this situation, which coincided with settlement expansion measures and practices in Jerusalem and around it and in many parts of the Palestinian territories, noting that this creates more events that destroy the bases of the Palestinian-Israeli accord. Among the most serious of these measures is what was announced concerning the confiscation of 3,000 donums to be annexed to Ma'ale Adomim settlement and the confiscation of territories under the pretext of building roads or expanding other settlements.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that in its statement, the council stresses the need to immediately stop these confiscations and settlement activities and to confront acts depriving the Palestinians of their rights with all available means. The Council of Ministers called on the higher Palestinian committee in charge of following up the negotiations to hold an emergency meeting to study immediate measures, including the feasibility of continuing the negotiations, as well as other measures to stop these violations.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added: The council listened to a report by the president on the meetings of the Islamic summit in Casablanca. The council praised the summit's resolutions, which reflect our nation's support for the Palestinian cause and the NA. The resolutions, he said, were approved unanimously and represent a protection of the Palestinian stand at this critical time in which Israel is trying to avoid its commitments toward the peace agreements and rejects attempts aimed at imposing Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem.

The Council of Ministers praised the respect and appreciation the Palestinian delegation received and the support for its stands, which put the Palestinian cause at the top of the Islamic conferences priorities. The council urged all Arab and Islamic countries to offer all the support needed for the Palestinian people to achieve their objectives in terms of establishing their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the council went on to discuss the remaining topics on its agenda. Within this framework, the council decided to delegate the Ministry of Planning to prepare the necessary study to calculate the financial cost of applying the West Bank civil service system in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, the Council of Ministers adopted a number of resolutions on taxation and on following up the work of banks operating in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. [end recording]

'Urayqat Stresses Need for Redeployment, Elections

JN1812203094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Dec 9

[Interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority, by unidentified correspondent on 18 December; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted][Correspondent] People feel that Israel has used the Palestinian-Israeli Oslo agreement as a means to realize other agreements with the Arab states. After realizing these agreements with the Arab states, this bridge is now rendered redundant and Israel is trying to destroy this bridge.

'[Urayqat] I believe the issue is deeper and more complicated than this argument. We would like to tell our people at this fateful stage that we have entered the peace process and are endeavoring to realize peace. However, peace will not be at any price. Much has happened for a long time between the Arab states and Israel, with or without us. All we say is that the Palestinian problem remains the key to the solution or the struggle in the region. There will not be an Arab-Israeli peace without a solution of the various aspects of the Palestinian issue. The agreements we have seen after the signing of the agreements with the Palestinian side, that is the warming of relations with the Arab neighbors is a result of the beginning of a solution for the Arab issue. But if the Palestinian-Israeli track collapses, God forbid, there will be a collapse of the peace process on all Middle East tracks.

[Correspondent] The Israeli newspaper MA'ARIV today published a secret document proposing speeding up the expansion of the national authority to include three cities in the West Bank; namely, Ramallah, Nabulus, and

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Janin. Is this the beginning of phasing out the implementation of the second phase of the agreement?

['Urayqat] I believe there are many trial balloons released by the Israeli government. We have heard about a cosmetic redeployment, a provisional redeployment, preparatory redeployment. Now we hear plans of negotiations on Ramallah or Janin. In fact the Declaration of Principles is clear, the terms of reference are clear; namely, the redeployment of Israeli forces outside populated centers in the West Bank. In this first phase, this means the final withdrawal of the Israeli forces in one direction, in accordance with the peace process whose aim is a gradual end to occupation of all our cities, villages and camps.

It is one thing to come to the negotiations and we agree on a timetable to evacuate the Israeli forces. It is quite another thing if they come and say let us negotiate on Janin or Ramallah separately. We will reject this in part and parcel. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Is there a separation in negotiations between the redeployment and the elections?

'[Urayqat] Absolutely not. I have said that the provisional phase consists of four elements: a) redeployment of the Israeli forces outside the populated areas, in conjunction with deploying the Palestinian forces in these areas; b) revision of the laws; c) transferring the powers; and d) crowning these three elements by holding the elections. In other words, there will not be elections without redeployment, without the transfer of powers, or without revising the laws. We cannot separate the elections from the redeployment. The components of the transitional phase are interconnected and inseparable, forming the so-called transitional phase of the agreement.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Dr. 'Urayqat.

Official Denies PA Stopped Issuing 1st Stamp

JN1812103794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to Voice of Palestine today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, minister of telecommunications and post at the National Authority [NA; Palestinian National Authority, PNA], denied that the NA stopped issuing the first Palestinian stamp, as reported by Israeli paper MA'ARIV today. Minister al-Ashab said the NA will continue to issue Palestinian revenue stamps carrying pictures of Islamic and Christian holy places and historical sites. Al-Ashab added that the Ministry of Telecommunications and Post issues two categories of stamps. The first, postage stamps, carry the Palestinian flag, while the other is a revenue stamp carrying pictures of holy places and historical sites. Al-Ashab indicated that the prices will appear on stamps in fils.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashab is scheduled to leave for Cairo tomorrow. He will take part in the 20 December meetings of Arab ministers of telecommunications and post to discuss cooperation and coordination among Arab states in the fields of telecommunications and post affairs.

PFLP-GC Reportedly Reduces Cadres by 30 Percent

JN1912110594 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 19 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the path of all PLO factions, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], led by Ahmad Jibril, has decided to adopt some austerity measures at the expense of the families of the martyrs and wounded. Therefore, the PFLP-GC has recently dispensed with 30 percent of its military and organizational cadres, provided that this should not apply to those who have been with the PFLP-GC for more than eight years and should lead, of necessity, to stopping payments to the families of the martyrs and wounded.

In brief, the decision, as usual, affects the livelihood of the downtrodden and oppressed and preserves the leadership's luxurious, sumptuous lifestyle.

Hamas Denies Iranian Financing Via Jordan

NC1512190494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 15 Dec (MENA)—The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, today denied statements by U.S. Congressman Kenneth Kanesman [name as received] and reports published in the Israeli newspapers that Iran finances Hamas through its representative in Jordan.

Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, the official spokesman for Hamas, said in a statement to MENA that this report has absolutely no truth in it and falls within the scope of the allegations and war waged by Israel against the movement.

TV Gives Details on U.S. Report

JN1612200194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Certain world news agencies have quoted a report prepared by a studies and research institution affiliated with the U.S. Congress as saying that certain parties linked to a Middle Eastern country are providing financial aid to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad Movements. The U.S. Administration has showed interest in this report, particularly as regards information on the involvement of a foreign ambassador in Jordan in the financing operations.

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Jihad Leader Denies Receiving Financial Aid

JN1912111594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Dec 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, has stated that relations do exist between him and Iran and that the Islamic revolution supports the Islamic Jihad Movement. But, he denied having met with any Iranian officials in Amman. Al-Shaqaqi was reacting to a U.S. Congress report that there is a relationship between the Islamic Jihad Movement and the Iranian ambassador in Amman.

Al-Shaqaqi told AL-HAYAH: We do not deny our relationship with the Islamic Republic based on political and moral support for the Palestinian people's right to pursue their jihad and for their independence. He said that statements by U.S. and Israeli officials about financial and material support to us and to the militant Islamic forces are statements that are blown out of proportion to bring pressure to bear on Iran and to besiege it.

Al-Shaqaqi said that Iran is one of the staunchest supporters of the cause but this does not mean military assistance. He referred to the continuous cooperation with Hizballah leaders in Lebanon via meetings between the leaders from both sides. He said: This is because we struggle in the same trench.

Al-Shaqaqi said he knows the Iranian ambassador in Amman and that he met him once in 1988 after he was deported from Gaza. He said: However, we did not get any assistance of any kind from him. He also denied that Islamic Jihad officials had met with any Iranian official in Amman. He said: We meet elsewhere. He added: I visited Tehran following the conclusion of the Oslo agreement to become acquainted with the Iranian officials viewpoints on the agreement and its future.

The Islamic Jihad secretary general ruled out Tehran's suspending its assistance to the Palestinian Islamic movements after a comprehensive settlement on all tracks is attained. He said: Iran's support for us is an ideological and political question of primordial importance to the Islamic revolution. So long as the revolution prevails in Iran, support and assistance will continue.

Hamas Anniversary Statement Renews Call for 'Jihad'

JN1612150194 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement on the seventh anniversary of its founding in which it has renewed its pledge to continue jihad to liberate all of the Palestinian soil. It said that jihad is the only way to liberate the land, purge the holy places, and restore respect for our Palestinian people, who have realized that begging from the enemy will result in more suffering and coercion. Hamas called for continuing the jihad to liberate the last inch of the usurped Palestinian land.

Hamas added that the discordant voices that call for stopping military operations against the Zionist enemy should keep silent because any free people must refuse to agree on the usurpation of its land. The movement called on the government of terrorist Rabin to immediately stop the arrests and brutal suppression against our people, strugglers, and mujahidin.

Hamas called, in its statement, on all Islamic and nationalist forces in the Palestinian arena to close ranks and entrench national unity, based on the principles of our mujahid people who call for continuing jihad to expel the last Zionist from the land of Palestine.

Hamas also called on the 'Arafatist police to cease the arrest campaigns launched against our people, end the erection of roadblocks to protect the Zionist settlements, and to stop confiscating freedom and silencing people.

Concluding its statement, Hamas congratulated the families of the martyrs and wounded. It also expressed its appreciation for and pride in the prisoners of freedom, whose cause has been shelved and whose suffering has been ignored.

Hamas Leaders Resign From Joint Committee

TA1612153494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in the Gaza Strip have announced their resignation from the reconciliation committee jointly established with the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of Hamas' leaders, made the announcement at a speech before 10,000 supporters who held a rally in the Gaza Strip this afternoon to mark the anniversary of Hamas' founding. Al-Zahhar asserted that the reconciliation committee was not serious and that 'Arafat, rather than sending PA representatives, had sent Fatah officials with whom Hamas has no quarrel.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the highlight of the rally was a play featuring students from the Islamic University, who reenacted the murder of the late Nahshon Wachsman.

One of the speakers at the rally, Ahmad Bahr, said that Hamas is the military arm of the international Islamic movement and would continue to wage a holy war until all the Jews are banished.

Hamas Favor 'National Dialogue,' Higher Interest

JN1612175794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a speech delivered at a rally held by the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement in Gaza today to mark its seventh anniversary, Dr.

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Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas official in Gaza, said his movement will henceforth favor national interests over party interests.

For his part, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr has asserted that the Hamas Movement seeks to participate in the battle of building the homeland in this crucial phase of our people's life. Shaykh Bahr urged the Arab and Islamic presidents and kings to shoulder their responsibilities toward holy Jerusalem and the Palestine question. He also called for closing ranks and renouncing estrangement.

Shaykh Bahr asserted that the Hamas Movement welcomes a national dialogue permeated by a spirit of higher interests in favor of the homeland and its people.

Hamas Official on Founding Anniversary, 'Plan'

LD1012151094 London AL-HAYAT in Arabic 10 Dec 94 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, official spokesman for Hamas, by Husayn Hijazi in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hijazi] On Friday [16 December], you will go to the al-Yarmuk field to celebrate the seventh anniversary of the founding of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Do you feel you are closer to achieving your objectives today?

[Al-Zahhar] Certainly, we are closer to our objectives, but we are not yet about to pick the fruit, because the plan of Hamas is quite broad. Several parties are involved in it and influence its course; I mean all the Islamic movements on Earth. Whenever any of these movements succeed, this contributes to our struggle here. Therefore, I say we are not today about to pick the fruit but we are closer to our objectives than we were seven years ago.

[Hijazi] In what sense are you closer to your objectives?

[Al-Zahhar] When Hamas was launched in 1987, it was only a handful of people, but now it has a broad base. Hamas was only mentioned in the occupied territory, but now it exists everywhere, occupies major headlines, and is the center of attention of friends and foes. When (U.S. President Bill) Clinton stands up and declares that Hamas is the prime enemy, then we can say that seeing this happen in seven years is no simple thing.

[Hijazi] You sound like Yasir 'Arafat in the early seventies when he spoke about the fedayeen, whom Moshe Dayan said were enemy number one. Don't you see that by saying this you are following the course of Palestinian nationalism? Where will this lead us?

[Al-Zahhar] But Fatah was the party that changed. I believe that the Islamic movement is immune to this plague, by which I mean change. The plan of Fatah is a human one. Hamas, on the other hand, espouses a divine plan which is governed by heavenly laws that cannot change according to personal whims. Unlike the PLO, Hamas does not have to fear any possibility of failure as a result of linkage with regimes and response to their pressures. This is because Hamas exists inside, and not outside, the occupied territory. The strategic dimension of Hamas is people-based and Islamic. In contrast, the PLO is only supported by secular regimes. It is clear now that the people-based and Islamic dimension has clashed with secular regimes, and the clash is expected to be settled in favor of the people-based and Islamic forces.

[Hijazi] For Israel, is Palestinian nationalism the less feared enemy on the level of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

[Al-Zahhar] I view this issue as follows. First, the strength of the Palestinian nationalist dimension—or the strategic depth behind this nationalist dimension—in the future will be much less than the dimension represented by the strategic depth of the Islamic movement.

Second, the PLO has no reason for recognizing Israel and relinquishing the 1948-occupied territories. In other words, it can justify its coexistence with Israel. The self-rule plan is an embodiment of this reality. However, there is no possibility of recognizing, accepting, or coexisting with Israel on the part of the Islamic movement. If the Islamic movement gets weak, then both the Islamic movement and the nationalist dimension will pose an equal threat to Israel's eyes. But if the balance of power tips in favor of the Islamic movement, then it will pose a grave threat to Israel. Take the following example. If 51 Islamic states out of the total of states currently meeting in Casablanca were governed by Islam, and not secularism, don't you think this gathering, in its human and technical resources and under the leadership of Hamas, would pose a grave threat to Israel?

[Hijazi] Before that, it will pose a threat to the West and the United States, and perhaps the whole world. It has been observed that the logo of your newspaper, AL-WATAN, is put on a map that shows the globe.

[Al-Zahhar] We care then for all creatures. [part of Koranic verse] It is quite simple: Palestine is a region and the Arab nation is an identity. But the message is for all nations. This is why the greater circle includes the smaller ones, that is, the regional and Arab circles.

[Hijazi] But this also makes you the focus of attention and prompts your opponents to close ranks!

[Al-Zahhar] Being the focus of attention has positive and negative aspects. Among the negative aspects is that it makes the opponents close ranks with their immense resources. Among the positive aspects is that it clarifies the nature of the conflict to many people. For example, Bosnia has lost a great deal as a result of the opponents' rallying of their resources, but at the same time it has won a great deal as a result of drawing the support of diverse parties, including even neutral parties. The recent Casablanca Islamic conference talked about

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defying the United Nations over the question of supplying Bosnia with weapons. Every conflict has its own peculiarities. We take that into consideration.

[Mijavi] I meant to say that seven years after its establishment, Hamas has managed to win a sure opponent beside Israel, which is the Palestinian Authority.

[Al-Zahhar] Throughout its history, the Islamic movement has been facing more than one opponent. In Palestine [as published], the Muslim Brotherhood was in dispute with 'Abd-al-Nasir and Haj Farraj, after 'Abd-al-Nasir was kept. There were the disagreement with the nationalist side (the PLO), but this is not new.

[Mijavi] Does 'as Force says Israel has agreed that Hamas can take part in the elections without approving the Oslo agreement?

[Al-Zahhar] It is not 'as Force who sets conditions for our participation in the elections.

[Mijavi] Where has dialogue with the Authority reached?

[Al-Zahhar] Now, there is no dialogue with the Authority, and no such dialogue has ever taken place. What happened is that we discussed ways of solving some problems of a national nature.

[Mijavi] If there is no dialogue, then what is there? Is it war?

[Al-Zahhar] Neither war nor dialogue.

[Mijavi] How do you plan to end the state of no war, no dialogue?

[Al-Zahhar] It is easy. First, the Friday, 18 November, incidents case should be settled, not only to get matters straight, but also to derive lessons to avoid similar incidents in the future.

[Mijavi] Some people talk about the need to end the current polarization by creating a third alternative party?

[Al-Zahhar] The arena is open for those who want to compete.

[Mijavi] So, you do not approve the creation of an intermediate line in the Authority or in Hamas, and consequently, you want Hamas to raise its voice against it now?

[Al-Zahhar] The dissolution of societies begins from this point. He who cannot acquire a high rank, tries to create an intermediate line and talks about national dialogue in order to find a role for himself.

[Mijavi] Are you against national dialogue?

[Al-Zahhar] We are not against national dialogue, but we know that the position of the people differs from that of the political leaders. We also know that the position of this line will benefit the Islamic movement.

[Mijavi] Why?

[Al-Zahhar] What about those who do not believe in the Islamic movement and those who have no place in the Authority? It is clear. The Arab nationalists who have graduated from American universities and who do not believe in Islam, are looking for a program and are becoming communists. We have no program other than Islam, which constitutes a coherent program in itself, and around which the masses will rally. There is no program other than that of Hamas. The other question is: What will happen after 'Arafat? After 'Arafat there will be disintegration, and Hamas will survive. It is a question of time. In fact, Hamas is a solid, achievable idea. Therefore, it is the only force that is qualified to play a central universal role. Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine have all been split.

[Mijavi] You want to be a winning line, but people feel the way you showed on Friday, 18 November, when you burned al-Fajr and al-Ahd' movie houses. This means that you want to impose certain cultural values on everybody.

[Al-Zahhar] The Authority knows full well who burned the movie house. They are the same forces who burned the Islamic Reform Society in Dayr al-Balah that possessed 1,000 orphans.

Hamas Leader on Swimming of Israeli Soldier's Body

TA180715Z0000 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Dec 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip say Israel is trying to pressure Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] into returning the body of the soldier Sgt Sa'adon. One of Hamas' leaders says Israel is refusing to return the bodies of terrorists Hasan 'Asfour, who carried out the attack in Nahalat Shiv'a in Jerusalem, and Salah Sahliah, one of Hizbollah Mughniyah's kidnappers and murderers, for burial in the Gaza Strip. The bodies of these terrorists have been held in the Abu Kabir forensic medicine institute for the last two months.

'Imad al-Falluji, one of Hamas' leaders in the Gaza Strip, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem this is a barbaric and illogical move on the part of the Israeli Government. He says Israel is mistaken if it believes the move will pressure Hamas. Al-Falluji says Sa'adon's body is being held by 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, and will be returned only if Palestinian prisoners are released.

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Algeria

Minister on Maghreb Summit, Relations with Morocco

AU311113/11 [number illegible] AU AM(AU) AU AM(AU) to [illegible]

[FBIS Translated Text] Casablanca, 31 [illegible] AU - [illegible] Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri has stated that a Maghreb summit will be held in the Algerian capital next March. He said that his government is trying to [illegible] issues [illegible] in order to observe would be discussed at the summit meeting. He hoped that there was a possibility of [illegible] at the UMA [Union du Maghreb Arabe] Council of Ministers.

He said that the Government concerned was dealing with the issue but he added that expansion of the UMA to include countries other than Egypt would be impractical.

On the question of Algerian-Moroccan bilateral relations, Dembri said that a meeting would be held next month between the foreign ministers of the two countries and that the agenda of the meeting would include recent developments in bilateral relations, especially the border closure and the question of visas. He said that some officials from both countries had already discussed these matters. He did not rule out discussion of the Sahara issue.

Dembri said that the work of the Islamic summit conference could not yet start but that he had had general discussions on topics on the agenda, especially the issue of Jerusalem and the Iraq-Kuwait dispute. He said that the disagreement in the drafting of the final statement was over the meaning of [illegible] and nothing serious.

Dembri denied that the Algerian invasion had existed in the closed session in which the issue of terrorism and violence in the Islamic world was discussed. He said that all the delegations condemned all forms of violence under the cover of religion.

Concluding his statement, Dembri said: There was a general agreement by all the Islamic countries on preserving the true image of Islam and keeping terrorism and violence out of Islamic societies.

Premier Opens Meeting on Investment

LD3111222/99

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 31 December broadcast live a report on the first meeting of the local authorities for the promotion of investment, which began today at the Aurassi Hotel. The meeting was opened by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, and was attended by a number of ministers. The meeting brought together the administration and the investors.

Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi delivered a 15-minute speech, in which he stressed that the important objective from this meeting was "to establish a relation of complementarity and mutual trust between the investor and the local authority, with the aim of establishing and ensuring a true foundation for the economic and socioeconomic integrity of the five southern provinces without which no development can be achieved in all these vast provinces."

He stressed that the presence of himself and other members of the government was an indication of the importance the government attaches to the principle of free investment and that "the principle of free economy was not a mere slogan in the government's program but a principle for creating the national economy, [illegible] the promotion activity, and effectiveness."

In the end, Prime Minister Sifi emphasized that local authorities' activities must "be credible, rational and pragmatic, because the citizens have the right to expect real progress in their environment, improved services, and ample support."

He re-emphasized that "the government's fundamental efforts were characterized by preparation and elaboration of varied and tangible policy measures, and this [illegible] economic policy applicable in all efficient and at all levels."

He expressed a wish for this second visit not to be the last, in the sense of [illegible] meeting here, saying he would like holders of the country, confirming the government's determination to encourage all investors.

Labor Party Leader on Domestic, Foreign Issues

LD3111222/99 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Dec 99

[FBIS Translated Text] Louisa Hanoune, leader of the Labor Party, gave a news conference today. She then answered [illegible] comprehensive and varied on government policy, economic issues, and so forth.

On government policy, she stressed the need for finding an outlet to the Algerian crisis through a peaceful return to the elections that should be participatory. She said that the people supports [illegible] which is the only way to overcome the problem of absolute majority. The crisis can not last any longer. Algeria has the potential to solve the problem. It lacks only the political decision necessary to resolve normally to the political [illegible].

The leader of the Labor Party said the Rome conference must also [illegible] it was impossible for an opposition or the political spectrum to meet outside contacts in Algeria. She said that the Rome meeting was without any political patronage. The political factors [illegible] the work of establishment of political parties. Rome brought the various [illegible] together for the necessity of dialogue.

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

The agreement was assigned by Chairman Mahmud al-'Arabi and Russian Chamber of Trade and Industry Deputy Chairman Bidanov, who is heading a trade delegation on a visit to Cairo.

Al-'Arabi stated that the agreement seeks to develop trade and economic cooperation and encourage joint ventures involving businessmen from both countries. He added that the agreement seeks primarily to reopen the Russian market for Egyptian exports, which dropped sharply following developments in the former Soviet Union.

Al-'Arabi added that the agreement aims to facilitate exchange visits between business delegations from both sides and the holding of international exhibitions as well as to solve the problems that obstruct the flow of trade and information on export and import opportunities in both countries.

Bidanov said that Egypt is Russia's most important trade partner in the Middle East and that the Russian Government is eager to take all the necessary measures to enhance trade exchange, which dropped to $250 million against $1 billion or more in the past.

He pointed out that the economic reform policy pursued in federal Russia is based on liberating prices, privatizing the public sector, and liberating foreign economic relations. He noted that his government is willing to sign mutual customs exemption agreements with Egypt.

Bidanov affirmed that there is a good opportunity to increase the volume of trade with Egypt, particularly after the elimination of restrictions imposed on imports. He remarked that the Russian Government is interested in providing a favorable atmosphere for expanding trade.

Daily: UN 'Digging Its Own Grave' on Chechnya

NC1912215794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper denounces the negative stand adopted by the United Nations and the UN Security Council regarding the Russian aggression against the Islamic republic of Chechnya.

The newspaper says in an editorial for its issue tomorrow, Monday 19 December, that if the situation continues as it is now, the international organization would be digging its own grave and would be repeating the League of Nation's tragic and negative attitude when Mussolini invaded Abyssinia in 1936.

The paper points out that the aim of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's stance toward the new small states that obtained their freedom after the collapse of communism is a deep-rooted desire to revive the Soviet Union, which was dismantled by Gorbachev, or at least to expand the areas under his control. The Russian president also aims at augmenting his recent demands that his country be treated like a superpower.

AL-AKHBAR says that it may be Yeltsin's right to achieve his ambitions, but not at the expense of other countries and nations that were linked to Russia only through the Soviet Union's cover.

Opposition Reports on Saudi Economic Crisis

NC1912180594 Cairo AL-SHAB in Arabic 9 Dec 94 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] There have been numerous reports and analyses recently on the problems besetting the Saudi economy. These reports coincided with a statement by the Saudi planning minister last week outlining general guidelines to deal with the deficit in the kingdom's general budget. Saudi Arabia is expected to announce its new five-year plan next month. The basic problem that the Western information media are highlighting in the kingdom's severe shortage of funds, which is leading to a delay in repaying debts. The budget deficit is worrying numerous creditor banks, which estimate that the ruling Saudi clan spent in the past 11 years more than the total revenue of the kingdom, which comes primarily from oil.

Although it is hard to obtain precise figures on the Saudi economy, certain Western economic sources estimate Saudi Arabia's debts at approximately 70 percent of its domestic product, which is a high figure. One of the proposals adopted as part of the Saudi policy to reduce the budget deficit is privatizing some of the economic sectors and training Saudi manpower to undertake the jobs done by foreign employees in order to stop their remittances to their countries. These remittances deprive Saudi Arabia of funds that are not contributing to the Saudi economy.

One of the measures that may make a difference in Saudi Arabia is abolishing government subsidies although subsidies in certain segments have virtually been abolished. According to the ECONOMIST supplementary reports, the wheat crop in Saudi Arabia this year is only half the crop the year before last, which indicates that agricultural subsidies have declined. All these proposed measures are intended for mid- and long-term policies. Saudi Arabia is suffering from a shortage of funds. It does not want its creditors to lose confidence in its solvency and so it increased its oil production.

Although the OPEC meeting two weeks ago ended with an agreement by the member states to strictly adhere to the production ceiling in the hopes that prices would go up, Saudi Arabia intends to increase its production ceiling of 8 billion barrels per day [bpd] decided on by OPEC to approximately 10 billion bpd to increase its revenue. The Saudi rulers hope that oil prices will improve in 1995. Every dollar increase in a barrel of oil brings Saudi Arabia $2.3 billion annually. In 1990, as Iraq was forced to stop its oil production, Saudi Arabia

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doubled its oil production to meet the demands of the cost of the international war against Iraq. Saudi Arabia hopes that the oil embargo on Iraq will continue because the resumption of Iraqi oil production would glut the markets and reduce prices.

Oil experts estimate that an increase in oil production would prompt the industrial nations to increase their oil stocks to weather any crisis resulting from acute shortages or large price hikes on international markets.

Certain parties maintain that Saudi Arabia, as well as most of the Gulf countries, seek to maintain the oil embargo on Iraq for the same reason so that they can continue their high production in order to foot the bills of the so-called second Gulf war. Because these bills are paid to the West, the latter exaggerates Saudi Arabia's financial problems to continue its high production, which threatens its enormous oil reserves while maintaining the embargo on Iraq. This vicious circle continues to strangle the Iraqi people and exhausts Saudi-Gulf oil, helping the West to continue plundering their wealth and pressuring Saudi Arabia, exploiting its economic crisis.

Committee Objects to Establishment of Party

NC1712095794 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Political Parties Affairs Committee has issued a decision objecting to Wahid Ghazi's demand to establish the Constitutional Party [al-Hizb al-Dusturi]. The committee was chaired by Consultative Council Chairman Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi and included the ministers of justice and interior, the minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs, and counselors 'Abd-al-Rahman Faraj, 'Abd-al-Mu'ti 'Abd-al-Rahim, and 'Atif al-'Izab.

Mauritania

Relations With Senegal Given New Foundation

AB1712163094 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Senegal and Mauritania have resolutely turned the page on the painful events that occurred in 1989 and that seriously marred the relations between the two countries. The interior ministers of both countries met in Nouakchott for two days in order to give a new basis to their relations. The main points to be remembered after the two-day meeting are new measures to facilitate the free movement of people and goods between the two countries. Salem Mechbour Salem has the details:

[Salem] The Senegalese and Mauritanian interior ministers have set up regional commissions to undertake an exhaustive census of arable lands and pastures for livestock transhumance. The regional commissions will meet during the first quarter of 1995 in order to compare data obtained by each regional commission at the national level. The reports of each commission—which are composed of experts and of the Mauritanian and Senegalese border administrative authorities—will be submitted to an interministerial meeting slated for the first quarter of 1995. They will take the necessary measures on the basis of the conclusions presented by the regional commissions. The interministerial meeting will, at that time, determine an appropriate judicial framework.

On security issues along the borders, the interior ministers noted with satisfaction the important progress made by both countries and strongly recommended information exchange and direct contacts between the authorities as well as mutual assistance for better cooperation in order to better deal with all the conflicts that threaten the stability in the two countries.

The Nouakchott meeting also agreed to reduce the amount of fees charged to cross the river from both ends. Instead of 600 francs, the fee has been reduced to 300 francs or its equivalent in convertible currency. However, this decision will not be implemented before the next meeting between the two interior ministers in the first quarter of 1995. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Calls Islamic Conference 'Failure'

AB1612130094 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Dec 16 (AFP)—Sudan leader General 'Umar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir Friday [16 December] slammed the just-concluded Organisation of the Islamic Conference [ICO] in Casablanca a failure.

The summit has "failed" to achieve fraternity among Arab states whose differences flared once again during the meetings of the OIC, al-Bashir said in a statement on his return here.

In another development, al-Bashir said Nigeria would play a role in reactivating efforts to reach peace in southern Sudan.

Al-Bashir who met with Nigeria's head of state, General Sani Abachi, told reporters that the Nigerian leaders have expressed readiness to reactivate the peace efforts in the Sudan.

Nigeria has previously hosted two rounds of peace talks between the Sudanese Government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

But after Sani Abachi took over from General Ibrahim Babangida, the peace efforts moved to Kenya where President Daniel arap Moi is leading a four-member committee that includes the heads of state of Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda.

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The Organization of the Islamic Conference summit regrouped 51 countries.

Health Minister, Iranian Counterpart Hold Talks

EA1512195794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant Colonel Galwak Deng, the federal health minister, today met Dr. Ali Reza Marandi, minister of health, treatment, and medical education in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Joint relations in the health sector were discussed during the meeting. Lt. Col. Galwak Deng praised the existing cooperation between the two countries. He reviewed the ministry's policies and strategy in implementing the health agreement signed between the two countries, particularly in the fields of medicine production, training, exchange of experiences and provision of medicines.

For his part, the Iranian health minister affirmed that his country was eager to strengthen and develop relations between Khartoum and Tehran.

A joint working committee has been formed to review the health agreement signed between the two countries. The Iranian minister inspected stores and sections of the public corporation for medical supplies. He held a joint meeting to discuss cooperation, training and quality control.

'Tension' Follows Border Clashes With Eritrea

JN1812102294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Informed Sudanese sources yesterday disclosed that there were clashes with heavy weapons between Sudanese and Eritrean forces on the border before and after the severance of diplomatic relations between the two countries on 6 December. The sources added that there is a military buildup on both sides of the border, that extreme tension still prevails in the region, and that the crisis could develop further.

These sources added that the border area has seen rising tension as political relations deteriorated over the past months. Tension was very high last month. It soon turned into skirmishes in light weapons and later developed into clashes in heavy weapons when the two countries sent their regular troops to the border region. Only the police were previously deployed in the border region, especially on the Sudanese side, which is employing all its military capabilities in the war with the forces of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Sudan, in its two split factions in the south and west of the country.

The sources said the severance of diplomatic relations, announced by Asmara, came within the context of these developments and confrontations, and not because of them.

Explaining Khartoum's position on these incidents, the source [not further identified] said Khartoum blames the Eritrean side and accuses the regime of President Issaias Afeworki of starting the "aggression". This happened when the forces of this regime opened fire on Sudanese employees and citizens at the border posts near the city of Kassala, killing several of them early this year. In addition, Eritrea has sent elements from the intelligence service to Sudanese territory to assassinate some Sudanese and Eritrean personalities which the Asmara authorities believe support the armed Islamic opposition that is active in Eritrea.

The source also explained Eritrea's view of these incidents, saying its government holds the National Islamic Front, led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, responsible for the increasing power of the Islamic Jihad Movement, which launches attacks on Eritrean territory. Eritrea believes that al-Turabi's group extends funds and weapons to the Islamic Jihad Movement, trains its cadres and provides facilities for it inside Sudanese territory and across the border. This position amounts to a declaration of war on Eritrea.

The same source added that the two capitals had exchanged protest letters and memoranda before the severance of ties, but to no avail. Each party thinks the other is involved in an international scheme against it. Eritrea thinks that Sudan is mustering a multinational Islamic army to take over Eritrea, since it is a newly independent state that has a weak structure. It also thinks that the operations of the opposition Islamic Jihad Organization are carried out by elements from several Arab and African states, and that this scheme seeks to take over the entire Horn of Africa.

On the other hand, Sudan thinks that Eritrea has connived with several regional countries and major states, especially Israel and the United States, to open a new front against Sudan to deplete and exhaust it. This is especially true since the forces of the southern rebels have suffered successive defeats over the past couple of years and after the failure of Western plots to encircle Sudan from the south or impose a security exclusion zone in its south. Information available to Khartoum confirms that Israeli air forces are now building a base near the city of Omal [name as published] west of Eritrea in a spot not far from Sudanese territory. According to this information, helicopters and engineers and military men from Israel supervising the civilian facilities of the project have been spotted in the area.

Preparations Under Way for Meeting With Ethiopia

EA1412173694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president, has been briefed on the preparations being made to convene the Sudanese-Ethiopian joint ministerial committee and the

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agenda for discussion during its meetings, which will take place in Ethiopia in January 1995. The briefing took place in his office at the Republican Palace today during a meeting with His Excellency the Ethiopian ambassador to Sudan. Mr. Yusuf Sa'id, adviser to the president of the Republic, said Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr had stressed the need to persevere with bilateral negotiations and to aim at resolving all the obstacles obstructing the progress of the work of the ministerial joint committee to promote relations between the two fraternal countries. He also pledged to support the promotion of the various forms of cooperation between Sudan and Ethiopia.

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Bahrain

Riots Reportedly Spread; Ministry Makes Statement

Clashes Continue in Bahrain

NC1612213794 Paris AFP in English 2038 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Dec 16 (AFP) - Moslem Shiites in Bahrain clashed with police for the fifth consecutive day Friday [16 December] as riots spread to new areas of the Gulf state, according to witnesses contacted from here by telephone.

Demonstrators fought running battles with police in Sanabis in scenes "similar to those yesterday in Sitrah," also in the northwest peninsula of Bahrain, one witness said.

Meanwhile inhabitants of Sitrah said there was more violence there late Friday, "during which the police used tear-gas and rubber bullets," said one witness.

Burned tyres littered the main road between the capital Manama and the town of al-Budayyi', while police cars full of officers armed with anti-riot equipment patrolled the region, witnesses added.

Bahraini authorities remained tight-lipped about the riots, which erupted in Manama and its southern suburb of al-Budayyi' on Monday.

Copies of the Bahraini daily AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, normally close to the government, were withdrawn from kiosks shortly after their distribution early in the morning.

A new edition went on sale in the afternoon and made no mention of the clashes, newspaper sellers said.

In Sitrah on Thursday, "hundreds of youths, armed with iron bars, hurled stones at the police who used tear-gas to disperse them," said one inhabitant.

Demonstrators "destroyed the outside of the National Bank of Bahrain, burned tyres and torched flags and banners raised on the main streets to mark the national day," he told AFP.

Sources close to demonstration organisers said several activists had been arrested in Sitrah.

Youths were "protesting against unemployment," especially widespread among the country's Shiites, the source said.

They were also calling for the release of Shiite Moslem leader Shaykh 'Ali Salman who was arrested early this month after condemning unemployment during a sermon in a Manama mosque, he said.

According to Arab diplomats Salman had also called for the "restoration of parliamentary life" in Bahrain.

Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Al Khalifah met on Monday a delegation of Moslem Shiite dignitaries and informed them of the refusal to free Salman, one diplomat said, requesting anonymity.

Violent demonstrations followed on Monday and Tuesday with special interior ministry crack units called out of the barracks.

The demonstrations erupted in Manama's city center, and spread to the suburb of al-Budayyi' where tyres were set on fire Wednesday. Jidd Hafs, to the west of Manama, was also affected.

A witness reported that many people were seriously wounded in those clashes.

The Sunni Moslem government has said that the Shiite Moslems only represent 35 percent of the population, but Western diplomats have put the figure at more than 55 percent.

Iranian Radio on 'Fresh Disturbances'

NC1712190094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Dec 94

[Report by 'Isam Hasan from the "News and Reports" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Eyewitnesses who followed up events in Bahrain, in addition to political observers in Manama, have affirmed the occurrence of disturbances and demonstrations, at least over the past five days. These witnesses have affirmed that clashes went on during the day between the security forces and demonstrators in the area of Sanabis in the northwest, which was the scene of violence similar to that in the area of Sitrah, also in the northwest.

Witnesses in Sitrah have pointed out that this area was the scene of fresh disturbances on Friday [16 December] evening. They said that the police used tear gas and rubber bullets. Until Friday evening, no reports on the toll of these confrontations were obtained by neutral observers.

The eyewitnesses who followed the situation in the region pointed out that burning car tires were seen on the main road that links Manama to the city of al-Buday' in the same region. Meanwhile, police cars carrying troops armed with riot-fighting equipment were patrolling the road.

The Bahraini authorities have been silent on those incidents that flared up on Monday in Manama and its southern suburb of al-Buday'.

The clashes involved hundreds of young men armed with stones and iron bars and the security forces, who used tear gas to disperse them.

The direct cause of these young men demonstrating was the arrest of Shaykh 'Ali Salman, who denounced unemployment in a sermon he delivered at a mosque in

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Manama. Diplomatic sources have stated that the confrontations erupted when the Bahraini Government refused to release the imam, who demanded in his sermon the restoration of parliamentary life suspended since 1975.

Information Minister Views Incidents

NC1812065694 London MBC Television in Arabic 2317 GMT 17 Dec 94

[Interview with Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyid by unidentified MBC correspondent in Bahrain on 17 December; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ... [al-Mu'ayyid] These incidents started over a month ago. They are incidents linked with an earlier incident, an attack on a participant in a jogging competition. The participant and others were injured. Some of those who participated in attacking the joggers were arrested.

They were arrested along with one of the people who encouraged these terrorist and illegal activities. They have been interrogated and referred to the legal sides.

Unfortunately, there was one incident in which the police were attacked. They did not want to use force to disperse the demonstrators. This attack led to the death of one of Bahrain's policemen. It is a very sad event but we say that things are proceeding normally. The country is safe. The sons of Bahrain are enjoying their real mercantile life with security and stability.

The third point I would like to highlight, as you have said, is that there are parties outside the country who incite and encourage such incidents. They give them prominence now and then either through tracts or by fax or radio. I believe the people of Bahrain realize what is in their interest and what is for their good. They also realize that the interest of the country requires solidarity and cooperation to preserve security and stability.

Interior Ministry Issues Statement

JN1812064794 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 17 Dec (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Interior Ministry of the State of Bahrain has stated that out of its eagerness to provide tranquility for all citizens and residents and take all proper legal measures against those who take actions that violate public security, the ministry would like to clarify the following:

At about 1400 on 25 November 1994, a group of people, some of whom were masked and brandishing sticks, demonstrated on al-Badi' street. They beat and hurled stones at (?participants) in an annual charity marathon. When the security forces confronted them to protect the participants in the race, they assaulted them by hurling stones at the police, injuring two and severely damaging a police car. The security forces managed to disperse the demonstrators and arrested 12 people who were involved in the incidents in order to take legal action against them.

On 5 December 1994, a person called 'Ali Salman Ahmad Salman, 29, who had been outside the country for a long time and returned only two years ago, was arrested. Investigation showed that he was the principal planner and executor of the incidents. He confessed before an investigation judge, who ordered that he be held in custody pending investigation. On the same day, a group of his aides and followers gathered in the Bilad al-Qadim and al-Khamis areas. They were carrying sticks, stones, and sharp tools. They threatened the passers-by, destroyed property, barricaded roads, and assaulted Public Security officers. Incidents continued in the same area and were repeated almost daily to demand the release of the aforementioned person. The security forces tried to calm the situation, explain things, and tell them that the arrested person was detained pending trial, but in vain.

Some buildings and private and public property were vandalized and a number of policemen were injured in the riots.

On 16 December 1994, demonstrations were staged in the al-Diraz village. They resulted in riots characterized by demagogy and violence. When the Public Security Forces tried to confront them, some of those who took part in the demonstrations beat to death a 20-year-old policeman, who died instantly, before being hospitalized. The security forces arrested the perpetrators, who were referred to justice.

The Interior Ministry stresses that out of their eagerness to establish security and spread tranquility in the country, the Public Security Forces detained some persons involved in these incidents either by participating or inciting, and legal measures have been taken against them.

Investigations have revealed that the disturbances were not spontaneous, but planned. They also coincided with a concerted foreign media and propaganda campaign. In addition, some misleading rumors were spread to increase tension and escalate incidents.

The Interior Ministry would like to reassure citizens that it is in control of the situation and that it is taking measures to ensure the implementation of law and establishment of security and order.

Two Said Killed in Shiite Village

NC1812141494 Paris AFP in English 1351 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Dec 18 (AFP)—Two young Bahrainis were killed Sunday [18 December] in dawn clashes in a Muslim Shiite village in the worst violence since riots erupted a week ago in the Gulf state, witnesses said.

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Police for the first time used helicopters to try to break up the crowd in the village of Sanabis, west of Manama, and also fired tear-gas and rubber bullets, the witnesses contacted from Nicosia said.

Fighting also raged overnight in other Shiite villages, they said. "Inhabitants were literally ordered to stay at home and lock the doors," one witness said.

Tensions were also said to be running high in the capital Manama, where the riots erupted last Monday to demand the release of Shiite Muslim leader Shaykh 'Ali Salman.

Police vehicles were posted at the city's strategic points, and especially near the hotel where the 15th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is due to open Monday.

Earlier Sunday Bahrain for the first time admitted there were "troubles" in the country in which a policeman had been killed, others wounded and damage caused.

A statement from the interior ministry acknowledged the rioters were demanding the release of Salman arrested after calling for the restoration of parliament which was dissolved in 1975.

It added that security forces had the situation under control and would do everything to restore law and order.

And it blamed the violence on a plot engineered from abroad.

Opposition: Police 'Losing Control'

NC1812204394 Paris AFP in English 1929 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Nicosia, Dec 18 (AFP)—Four Shiite Moslems and three policemen were killed in fresh clashes in Bahrain Sunday [18 December], an Islamic opposition group said, as the authorities for the first time admitted to "troubles" in the Gulf state.

In a statement received here, the banned Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain said riot police "are now using live bullets against the demonstrators, which means the authorities have begun losing control" of events.

Thousands of people joined demonstrations Sunday in the Shiite Moslem village of Sanabis, west of Manama, where "four civilians were killed and dozens wounded," the statement said.

The deaths caused "an explosion of anger" among the crowd, who "trampled to death three members of the riot police."

The statement named three of the dead demonstrators, calling them "martyrs of the intifada (uprising)." It said the fourth could not be identified.

Citing witnesses, it said angry crowds chanted "Death to the Al Khalifah"—the ruling family in Bahrain—during the funeral of one of the victims, 30-year-old Hani 'Abbas Khamis.

A religious cleric, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Jamr, called for a "jihad" or holy war against the Bahraini authorities in a funeral sermon. [passage omitted]

In another statement received here, a previously unknown group called the Bahraini Liberation Movement said two demonstrators had been shot dead, two others wounded by rubber bullets and 17 arrested, including two Shiite clerics. [passage omitted]

Tight Security Imposed for GCC Summit

NC1912121594 Paris AFP in English 1053 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Dec 19 (AFP)—Bahraini authorities imposed tight security in the capital Manama on Monday [19 December] as Gulf leaders gathered for a summit after clashes which left at least seven people dead, witnesses and opposition groups said.

An Islamic opposition group said four Shiite Muslims and three policemen were killed in fresh clashes in Bahrain on Sunday, while the authorities only reported one policeman killed.

Armed police were posted in the main streets of Manama, including the route from the airport to the city centre hotel where leaders of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were to begin their three-day summit meeting late Monday.

Security issues were expected to be high on the agenda of the 15th GCC summit held in the archipelago, which lies just off the Saudi coast.

The body groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

In a statement received here, the banned Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain said riot police "are now using live bullets against the demonstrators, which means the authorities have begun losing control" of events.

The trouble was sparked by the arrest of a Shiite cleric, Shaykh 'Ali Salman, on December 5.

Thousands of people joined demonstrations Sunday in the Shiite Muslim village of Sanabis, west of Manama. "Four civilians were killed and dozens wounded," the statement said.

The deaths caused "an explosion of anger" among the crowd, who "trampled to death three members of the riot police."

One witness said the civilian victims included a baby who was suffocated by tear-gas in al-Kharijiyah, an industrial area near Sitrah.

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The interior ministry said a policeman had been killed, an unspecified number of people wounded and damage caused, in its first public statement since fighting broke out.

The authorities "are in control of the situation and will take the necessary measures to bring back order and security," the ministry said Sunday.

Witnesses said several Shiite Muslim towns and villages, including Sanabis, Diraz and Jamrah were under night curfew.

According to Bahrain's Sunni Muslim authorities, Shiites represent 35 percent of the population. But independent estimates have put the figure at between 55 and 60 percent.

Islamic Front Figure Accuses Saudis

NC1912124794 Paris AFP in English 1136 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec 19 (AFP)—Nine people have died in clashes between Shiite Muslims and security forces in Bahrain, a Bahraini opposition group said here Monday [19 December].

Mahmud Shadiqan, a senior member of the banned Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB), told AFP five demonstrators were shot dead by security forces and four policemen also died in the clashes.

"The clashes between the revolutionary forces and forces of oppression are intensifying and the bazaar and schools remain closed" in the Bahraini capital Manama, he said.

The trouble flared in Manama last Monday and spread to other Shiite-dominated areas of the Gulf archipelago. It was sparked by the arrest of a Shiite cleric, Shaykh 'Ali Salman, on December 5.

Shadiqan did not say when the nine were killed.

Bahraini authorities have said only one policeman died in the "troubles."

In a statement received here Monday, the IFLB accused Saudi Arabia of "interfering" in the violence in Bahrain.

A causeway linking the two Gulf countries was closed for 90 minutes last week "to allow a unit of Saudi national guards into Bahrain," the statement said, without elaborating.

According to Bahrain's Sunni Muslim authorities, Shiites make up 35 percent of the country's population. But independent estimates have put the figure at 55 to 60 percent.

'Text' of Amir's National Day Address

JN1712092094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Dec 94

["Text" of speech by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah marking National Day on 16 December; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Beloved people, may God's peace and blessings be upon you. It is a source of pride and happiness for us to celebrate together—government and people—the Bahrain national day every year. This dear occasion symbolizes meanings that are dear to every one of us, reminding us of the achievements that have been realized and the tasks that lie ahead of us, as well as our aspirations and the policies that deserve our national concern. On this day also, we review the new facts and developments in the region and the world so that we might clearly see our march toward our planned national aims in an age that is full of changes and which requires all peoples and states to be responsible parties that make positive contributions in the world community in terms of their vision, policies, and stands. The world is aware that Bahrain in all its policies and stands has been true to these principles and eager to fulfill its role.

Respected citizens, any national planning in this age must be based on the economy and economic affairs because economics have become the basis of ties that bind states and individuals. We must exert further efforts in this regard in terms of planning. We must mention the continuous efforts of the esteemed government to improve the national economy despite the delicate circumstances in the region and the world, by its planning, activities, and international meetings aimed at attracting investments and encouraging investors to contribute to the Bahrain economic cycle and establishing further firms and productive undertakings, laying emphasis on expanding the economy and modernizing the basic utilities in affirmation of Bahrain place in Gulf and international economies.

The government departments have also been endeavoring to provide job opportunities for our young generations. The government is devoting its utmost attention to this process. We encourage those responsible for it to exert further efforts. Such a joint national aim will not be completed except by sincere cooperation between the national and private commercial establishments. This also requires preparation, readiness for jobs, and acceptance of conditions of serious and orderly work by our youths who aspire for work.

Regardless of the present and future changes, we have a Bahrain national indicator, which is firm and steady in its upward trend. By this indicator we mean educating and training Bahrain's qualified national personnel in various high professions, based on Bahrain's ancient tradition in education and culture. We have always been eager to follow this course with you from the beginning by honoring Bahrain's men and women who are the biggest asset for this homeland. Events have proven that material wealth is subject to changes and only productive, educated people remain firm.

On the general national level, we are watching with interest and are continuously encouraging the march of the Consultative Council. The beginning of this march

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indicate serious trends toward laying the foundations and then proceeding on to develop and progress in the general march of public participation in the country, and we are eager to develop it further, God willing. We emphasize first and foremost that the Council should be a sincere expression of the feelings and aspirations of all the citizens so that this will assist us and help our government draw up the country's general policy in various domains.

As for the general political situation in the region, recent events emphasized anew the importance of political and economic solidarity, and the defensive solidarity in particular, in order to safeguard the joint borders of our one Gulf entity within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. Bahrain hastened to stand by the side of the brothers in Kuwait to defend our one Gulf entity and its joint borders and international legitimacy's principles in a practical confirmation of Bahrain's unwavering commitment whenever a situation requires the performance of duty and the shouldering of responsibility at all levels. We hope this will be a joint policy among all the parties in the region for the sound handling of increasing changes.

At the same time, these events have proved the extreme importance of border stability as decided right from the beginning by the GCC security states and the neighboring region in general. Such stability entrenches existence and the general political map for all in a cohesive manner to avoid the threats of conflicts, whose price will be paid only by the peoples of the region, in terms of their security and prosperity. This will only be enforced through comprehensive positive cooperation among all the countries of the Gulf region with a spirit of moderation and understanding and a sincere desire to exchange interests for the good of everyone.

As for the wider horizon of the Middle East, the principle which has been repeatedly emphasized by Bahrain proved to be right. This principle says that peace in the whole area is an indivisible whole and that in order to be lasting and complete, peace should become comprehensive, and that the visible interests and border security guarantees among all parties throughout the region should be exchanged. Stability and security should not be confined to only one side, excluding the other. Based on this comprehensive concept of the future of the area, Bahrain supports the move toward this concept within the framework of Arab harmony and international legitimacy.

Finally, we are glad that Bahrain—government and people—will host the meeting of the brothers in the GCC. We repeat our warm and fraternal welcome of all brothers in the 15th GCC summit. We look with much interest and firm determination to this fraternal meeting to be a turning point for a constructive, serious, and tangible action to overcome obstacles and to converge around the joint visible interests of the GCC states and of their fraternal peoples in terms of political and economic coordination. We also hope that the meeting will crystallize regular security cooperation to achieve joint security within the GCC framework. God willing, out of a firm belief that there is no alternative to the GCC as an entity to secure the joint future to our Arabian Gulf.

Dear citizens: Whatever the changes might be one year after another, the meanings of the national day will remain, God willing, constants and shining landmarks to our national march. The achievements of this march in terms of consistency, construction, and progress are our greatest assets in the face of these changes.

May you live for Bahrain, and may Bahrain live by you.

Peace, God's mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Amir Receives Message From Yeltsin on Summit

LD1912070594 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 19 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the State of Bahrain, has received a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The message was delivered by Russian Ambassador to Bahrain Aleksandr Novogilov [name as transliterated].

The Gulf News Agency learned that the Russian president expressed his wishes for the success of the 15th summit conference of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which will begin in Bahrain this evening.

He expressed Russia's concern with security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region, and hailed the strong relations between the State of Bahrain and the Russian Federation.

His highness the amir of Bahrain expressed his thanks and appreciation to President Boris Yeltsin for his good feelings concerning the Bahrain summit.

His highness praised the good bilateral relations and hoped that they will further develop and prosper in various fields.

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Saddam Chairs Council of Ministers Session

96th Session

[91/01/22] 0700 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Dec 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad 90th—Leader President Saddam Hussein, may God watch over him, has said that cultural progress in Iraq cannot be viewed in accordance with the criteria by which material progress in industrial countries is measured. His excellency also said: The question is: What happened in our country that turned simple young men brought up in the poor districts and rural areas of Iraq into scientists that stand on equal footing with the most qualified experts and specialists in the so-called advanced world? How can we describe this state of affairs and by what criteria can it be measured?

His excellency wondered: What kind of a society is this, which fought for eight years against a country that is four times bigger than our country and despite all the well-known conditions in defense of its land, which scored victory over the will of evil in that country, and which then turned round to confront the biggest alliance of evil and materialism in the world—values which were unable to weaken its will?

The leader president added: Certainly the Iraqis are proud that their country possesses such capability and prosperity, that it has made such great achievements, and that it enjoys such an effective role in the Arab and international scene. Is this prosperity and capability alone enough to enable the Iraqis to occupy the place they deserve in history? Certainly not. Justice and its legislations were born in Iraq. We should never forget this fact because such prosperity and capability without the values of justice, right, and honesty constitutes only material progress and that defending justice, adhering to right, and strengthening honesty are a message and a faith that will improve both the present and the future.

Addressing the 96th session of the Council of Ministers, his excellency said that defending these values should be the focus of attention of each official in our country. He added: These tasks — realism and vanish if the official does not act fairly and resistance to public illegal applications, even though he is described as courageous, qualified, and having a militant background. His excellency also said: It is necessary for us to accustom ourselves and others to behaving in accordance with the law, and it is also necessary to acquaint citizens with their rights and duties and with the rights and duties of the state and not to encourage any violations. Only by this can we promote the right way to improve performance and achieve justice.

During its 96th session, the Council of Ministers discussed providing administrative facilities to private sector industrial projects. In this regard, the leader president stressed the importance of reducing routine and administrative restrictions in order to encourage industrial investments. The Council also discussed organizational problems facing the cooperative movement and made the necessary decisions.

97th Session

[91/01/22] 0700 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Dec 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Hussein, may God watch over him, has chaired the 11th session of the Council of Ministers, which reviewed the supply ration of citizens.

In light of the instructions of the leader president and after studying the prevailing circumstances with the aim of providing full food security for every citizen, the Council decided to continue to secure the items covered by the ration card for all Iraqi citizens.

The Council also discussed the third amendment to the Civil Aviation Law and then approved amendments proposed by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

Ramadan Returns From Islamic Summit, Comments

[91/12/21] 0700 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1627 GMT 17 Dec 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, and his delegation have returned to Iraq. Ramadan led the Iraqi delegation at the Islamic summit in Casablanca, convened on 13 December 1996.

Upon his arrival, Ramadan told the Iraqi News Agency that he took the opportunity to explain to the summit participants Iraq's position on the unfair sanctions, which have been in force for four years despite the fact that Iraq has eliminated all the pretexts that the United States invented to keep them in place.

He described the hardships the Iraqi people are experiencing from an acute shortage of food and medicine. We also made the point that the United States and its vassals are going out of their way to destroy the Iraqi people and leave them vulnerable to diseases and death in breach of the relevant Islamic charts and international laws and conventions, Ramadan added.

The vice president indicated that he met with delegation heads from Morocco, Palestine, Yemen, Sudan, Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia, Qatar, Turkey, Mali, Mozambique, and Malaysia to discuss the sanctions. We noted that they sympathized with the Iraqi people as they endured the hostile policies of the United States and its agents and vassals.

We appreciated King Hassan of Morocco's excellent efforts and his and Moroccan officials' support for Iraq and their demand that the sanctions be removed, the vice president said.

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[illegible] Discusses Iraq With [illegible] Leader, Iraq

[illegible] dispatch by [illegible] to [illegible]

[Excerpt] report by [illegible] from [illegible]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to [illegible], Iraqi Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has said Jordanian-Iraqi relations are normal again and welcomes Iraq's decision to open a new page in relations between Jordan and Iraq.

On Iraqi-Gulf relations, he said relations between Iraq and some Gulf countries are good, especially with Qatar, followed by the Sultanate of Oman, then Bahrain.

Answering a question on the stage and the prospects of Iraq's dialogue with Iran, Hammadi said: There is optimism about the stage because this is a new stage. The U.S. administration and the British Government are currently secretly and face-to-face relations increase daily. The world has begun to understand the reality of the situation and that the sanctions have no justification.

On Kuwait, he stressed principles when the stage will be lifted for a general solution, has begun for the adoption of the most important countries such as Russia, France, and China have positive positions. The Americans are currently dissatisfied because they failed to realize their political objectives. We should not forget that Iraq has been a victim of aggression for a decade and a half ago, some participants and Iraq has no second regime of regime in the world after Saudi Arabia. Within the next three years, Iraq may be the first. The stage has failed and its objectives have not achieved.

On concluding trade deals by some international companies with Iraq, the Iraqi information minister said this contributes to breaking the siege.

[illegible] these assumptions that the stage on Iraq would not be lifted before the Iraqi-Israeli negotiations concluded. He said: There is no connection between the two subjects. There is no reason to link them. We have nothing to do with the negotiations and the occupied Golan. Our role has always been to support Arab efforts with money and words. We did not refrain from extending any military help the Arabs requested. We look at things in a pan-Arab perspective. We do not have bilateral dealing with the Israelis. We treat Iraq does what I see as appropriate for it. The Palestinians know what is appropriate to them, and this is something that is for them to decide. We, as Iraqis, have nothing to do with what is going on.

On future prospects and his recent visit, [illegible] said the possibility of constructing an Iraqi pipeline across Jordan has ended. Hadi Iraq information minister denied this and denied any Israeli [illegible] has ever had to coordination between Iraq and Israel on any [illegible].

On Iraqi information minister [illegible] said that relations with Iran are developed there is no [illegible] on several unsettled issues. There are 15,000 officially registered Iraqi prisoners in addition to another [illegible] Iranian [illegible]. This is a problem that is not resolved. There is also the subject of [illegible] planes to Iran and other issues. The Iranian foreign minister may express several times to come to Iraq to resolve these issues but he did not come.

Opposition Experts Doubt al-'Uday's Involvement

[illegible] dispatch by [illegible] from al-'Iraq [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] 21 Dec 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper [illegible] reports in Iraq. Witnesses and sources in the Iraqi opposition living in the al-Hadbah quarter in the Kayyarah region of northern Iraq a huge explosion triggered by a booby-trapped car covered at noon Thursday [19 December] near the home of Al-'Uday Saddam Husayn, in the presence of many [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Rubin Opposes Bill on Jerusalem Commission

TA191112596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 19 Dec 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rubin has come out against passing a law which would make it more difficult to make concessions on Jerusalem. The prime minister was appearing before the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee, which is reviewing two separate bills on the issue, the first by the Likud's Uzi Landau and the second by Yitzhaq Levi of the National Religious Party. The bills went to the committee after passing in their preliminary readings in the plenum, despite government opposition. David Ze'evi reports:

[Ze'evi] The center of the argument in the Knesset Law Committee, the one law foresees saying you are not going to make concessions and actually making up a law. The Law Committee discussed that issue as it was proposed by Likud MK Uzi Landau. The Landau bill, among other things, says a majority of 80 Knesset Members [MKs's], two-thirds of the house, would be necessary to make changes to the current Jerusalem Law, which stipulates that Jerusalem is Israel's undivided capital.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rubin attended the meeting, along with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and for a short while Justice Minister David Libai. Prime Minister Rubin says Jerusalem has been and will remain the heart and soul of the Israelian people, but to pass the Landau bill would represent an unprecedented step of establishing preconditions in the negotiations. This is how it will be perceived not only by the Arab side and Rubin, but also by the United States and other friendly countries.

The prime minister quoted in English the commitment signed by all sides, including the Likud government at the time, before the Madrid peace conference in 1991, which said that any issue may be brought to the table, including East Jerusalem.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 19 December, in a report by Yitzhaq Ya'akov, carries a recorded passage in which Rubin tells the committee "I do not need any certificate from anybody on the unity of Jerusalem. The aim of that bill is not to ensure the unity and sovereignty of Jerusalem, but to torpedo the negotiations before the Jerusalem issue is even discussed." Rubin viewed PLO activity in Jerusalem with gravity, but said he does not have adequate legal means to deal with the activity. He called on committee members to support his bill to implement the Clara-Brichta accord, which he said would permit him to prevent non-Israelis from operating anywhere in the country.]

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, also a Likud MK, told the committee that the situation on the ground is deteriorating, prey to the issues of growing Palestinian control over the Temple Mount, with a mufti appointed by the Palestinian self-rule authority. The worsening situation is a result, as Olmert sees it, of the Oslo accords signed with the PLO. The mayor says he supports the Landau bill as a message to the Palestinians and as a way of stressing Israel's position on its capital city despite Palestinian declarations that Jerusalem is the Palestinian capital.

Rubin Cited on DPRK Missiles, Sales to Iran

TA161217296

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 16 December publishes on page A7 a report by Eytan Rubin and Ehud Ben on North Korean-Iranian missile cooperation, which says: "North Korea has acquiesced to Iran's request to test the Nodong missile on Iranian territory after the completion of its next development stage. This comes from reports that have reached Israel and the United States. The test is slated to examine various systems in the missile, which will not, however, be launched to its maximal range of approximately 1,300 km.

"In the missile's last test, which was held in North Korea, the Nodong was launched upward to a distance of 500 to 600 km.

"Sources in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] think that Iran is purchasing not only missiles, but advanced technological know-how from North Korea as well.

"The sources claim that Iran is purchasing huge quantities of weapons, adding that representatives of many foreign companies are in Tehran helping Iran develop weapons.

"IDF Intelligence Branch sources believe the deployment of the Nodong surface-to-surface missiles will enable Iran to hit targets in central Israel.

"A senior officer said that for all intents and purposes Israel cannot prevent a deal between Iran and North Korea. All it can do is monitor such deals and try to influence North Korea via third parties such as the United States, as Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rubin proposed to the committee. Rubin and South Korean President Kim Yong-sam called for international cooperation to halt weapons exports to the Middle East.

"Prime Minister Rubin says he knows nothing about China's breaching any commitment to Israel on the issue of armament and security purchases.

"Rubin was reacting to charges made by Shivtahi Knesset Member [MK] Sha'ul Gutman in the Knesset two days ago that a 'defense power' has transferred to a country with close ties to the Arab world technology it had received from Israel.

"Gutman accused Defense Minister Rubin and Defense Ministry Director General David Ivri of being responsible for the transfer of the technology to Pakistan. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres did not react to MK Gutman's accusations.

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"Rabin told correspondents accompanying him to South Korea that he did not use the precise phrasing of Cushman's charges, the gist of which is that China has transferred to Pakistan sensitive military technology it had purchased in Israel.

"Rabin said: 'I do not believe this entire story.'

"According to Rabin, 'in 1983 an Israeli Government, which was not headed by me personally or by Labor, decided to provide China with the opportunity to improve its supply of tanks. Another decision adopted was to supply China with an air-to-air missile made by RAFAEL [Armament Development Authority], but not a very advanced missile.'"

The same edition of HA'ARETZ also publishes on page A3 a report by Aluf Ben, 'Aqiva Eldar, and Sharon Sadi, which adds: "A senior American envoy visited Israel approximately two weeks ago and presented Prime Minister Rabin and Israeli officials with new information that Iran and North Korea are continuing their joint development of the Nodong surface-to-surface missile. This missile will be able to hit Israeli targets if launched from Iran.

"During his visit to the United States about three weeks ago, Rabin said—on the basis of information he possessed at that time—that the United States has managed to block the deal between Iran and North Korea, but that it is possible that North Korea is continuing to develop the missile independently. Rabin yesterday told correspondents accompanying him that during his visit to Washington he was briefed by 'senior and authoritative U.S. sources who have dealt with the issue' about the American-North Korean contacts that culminated on 21 October in the Geneva agreement aimed at halting North Korean nuclear development."

"The HA'ARETZ correspondent notes that in his Washington visit Rabin also met with CIA chief James Woolsey. Approximately two weeks ago, following his meeting with Rabin, Woolsey visited several Middle East capitals.

"Answering a question on whether he believes the United States has neglected Israel by not referring in the Geneva agreement to the missiles or to North Korean weapons sales in the Middle East, Rabin said: 'I would like to see continued U.S. efforts regarding the long-range surface-to-surface missiles development issue. We will pursue the dialogue with the Americans on this issue. To what extent will they succeed? We know we have no influence over North Korea, and without using other friendly elements we have no chances of preventing this.' Rabin added, however, that the development of nuclear weapons that could have reached our enemies was the most serious threat and that if the United States prevented this 'let that suffice.'"

The report continues: "Rabin told correspondents yesterday it is well known that wherever there is a will to acquire weapons and the money to back this up, the supply will be available. 'At one time—during the war with Iraq—we also had an ideology of supplying weapons to Iran, and I am not sure Hizballah has not benefited as with our own weapons, or that it will not do so in the future.'

"Iran maintains close ties with North Korea in a bid to develop long-range surface-to-surface missiles and is also striving to acquire the ability to develop such missiles on its own. According to the new annual report of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, as early as 1989 Iran stated its intention to develop a medium-range surface-to-surface missile with a range of about 800 km, but since then there have been almost no reports regarding the rate of progress of this project. The center's experts assess that the Iranians have encountered difficulties in the development or that they have decided to terminate it, and this is why they appealed for North Korean help.

"According to the annual report, Iran has purchased hundreds of Scud-B and Scud-C missiles from North Korea and has ordered 150 Nodong 1 missiles, but the latter have not been supplied to date."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 16 December in a page 3 report by Hemi Shalev—who is accompanying Rabin in Seoul—writes the following on the North Korean issue: "Israel will rely on the United States to act against North Korea's surface-to-surface missiles and will not act according to the 'whims of officials in this or that ministry' who believe Israel itself can accomplish something in this issue. This was stated yesterday by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the end of his first day of meetings in Seoul.

"Referring to Foreign Ministry officials who have visited the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, Rabin said: 'Naive Israelis have harbored illusions that they can prevent things from happening in North Korea. Those whims have harmed us, because the Americans told us: "What do you want from us? Stop nagging."'

"Rabin said Israel wants the United States to act against North Korea's development and sales of missiles. 'If the recent agreement signed by the United States and Pyongyang has prevented or delayed the development of nuclear weapons by North Korea and transferring them to Iran, let that suffice.'"

Peres: Talks With Syria Will Not Lead to Results

TA191213594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the negotiations with Syria have not ceased for one moment, but are moving slowly and in a way that he believes will not lead to results. Mr. Peres made the remarks upon leaving the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Ya'el Nir reports that Mr. Peres denied Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu's remarks that Israel had presented to

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Syria papers on a Golan Heights withdrawal. On Judaea and Samaria, Foreign Minister Peres said that an initial investigation is currently being conducted into how to assure the safety of Israelis, especially those travelling on the roads, and how to hold elections, but that the entire issue is subject to detailed negotiations with the Palestinians.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Peres said in a meeting with his Armenian counterpart that Israel has no intention of amending the Declaration of Principles with the PLO, but is concerned about a troop redeployment in the territories since the PLO has not managed to curb terrorism.

'Secret' Document Suggests Other Autonomous Areas

TA1812111394 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Dec 94 p 6

[Report by Nadav Ha'etzni]

[FBIS Translated Text] A secret internal Foreign Ministry document suggests that a Palestinian autonomy should be set up promptly in the cities of Ramallah, Nablus, and Jenin. The document also suggests that Israel comply with most of the Palestinian demands regarding the composition and powers of Palestinian Authority [PA] bodies that will be established, which would give Yasir 'Arafat clear and immediate achievements. Defense establishment elements who perused the document have criticized it severely.

In fact, the secret document expresses the stand of the Foreign Ministry's top professional echelons. It was drafted some three weeks ago by a ministry "think tank" and is entitled: "The Continuation of the Negotiations With the Palestinians—A Concept Paper." The paper is currently the subject of internal discussions. It is based on the concept of formulating a "package deal" with the Palestinians that would provide "concessions and ways to make the protection of Israel's vital interests attractive to the Palestinians."

From the Foreign Ministry's point of view, the greatest novelty this document introduces is its statement that the Gaza and Jericho model should not be applied to Judaea and Samaria. The top ministry echelons believe that these territories should be broken down into three parts: a Palestinian part, including the areas of Nablus, Jenin, and Ramallah; an Israeli part, including blocs of Jewish settlements; and a mixed part, in which Israel is in charge of security and the Palestinians hold most of the civilian powers, excluding water, land, population registration, electricity, and so on. Another novelty for the Foreign Ministry is its acceptance of the Defense Ministry's stand that control over major routes should remain in Israeli hands.

Along with these recommendations, the authors of the document speak of making outstanding concessions to 'Arafat. They suggest that Israel should avoid utterances that could weaken him. They further reject the defense establishment's attitude of making slow and cautious progress, claiming that the only way to force 'Arafat into considering a real compromise in the negotiations is "to adopt a model of accelerated progress" in which 'Arafat will receive a lot but will have to give a great deal in return. According to the document, this way will also reduce terror.

On the basis of these assumptions, the document suggests that Israel compromise on the issue of elections for the PA council—namely, that it accept an increase in the number of council members, its sovereign nature, and the independent powers that Yasir 'Arafat will be given. The document also suggests that Israel agree to allow Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine to take part in the elections. At the same time, the document suggests that Israel reject the Palestinian request that two elected bodies—a legislature and an executive—be founded.

It should be noted that the new document represents the prevailing assessments of the Foreign Ministry's top professional echelons, although the foreign minister and his deputy have additional ideas. The two disagree on several substantive issues, such as removing settlements and so on.

Defense establishment elements severely criticized the new Foreign Ministry document. They claim that the suggestions made by the authors of the document "prove they are not familiar with the territory or with the Palestinians."

Commentary Urges IDF Withdrawal From Lebanon

TA1812165094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Dec 94 p B1

[Commentary by Tzvi Bar'el: "How Much Will the Initiative in Lebanon Cost"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If the car bomb that exploded in al-Nabatiyah last week is part of Israel's new initiative in Lebanon, we have excellent cause for concern. The Lebanese, in general, and the Shiites, in particular, are better experts in the art of car bombs than we are. They have also been successful so far in choosing extremely painful targets.

Yitzhaq Rabin's reservations regarding the speech of Major General 'Amiram Levin, the new Northern Command commander, on the need for taking the initiative are to the point. The same reservations could apply to the outgoing chief of staff's idle threat to strike at Hizballah anywhere. The balance sheet of "pinpoint" operations indicates that Hizballah is more successful than we are.

Interestingly enough, this is the same chief of staff who, as head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence

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Branch, thought that partially withdrawing from Lebanon and remaining in the security zone would only strengthen Hizballah in its political struggle against Nabih Birri's Amal Movement. At the time Baraq maintained that a total withdrawal from Lebanon, while relying on Amal, would better serve Israel's security interests.

Baraq's position, however, conflicted with that of then-Chief of Staff Moshe Levi, Northern Command head Ori Or, and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Naturally, it was the defense minister who made the final decision.

This is the same defense minister who opposed even a partial withdrawal from Lebanon for fear that the Syrians would enter the area evacuated by the IDF. The head of intelligence, the current chief of staff, has apparently forgotten his former wisdom. The defense minister, who has become the prime minister, is the one who is now offering Lebanon a plan for a complete Israeli withdrawal. This plan has not won Syrian approval and consequently will not be implemented.

The reversal of roles between Rabin and Baraq could have been an interesting exercise in military thinking had it not demanded such a heavy toll in human lives. The longer the IDF's presence in Lebanon, the more difficult it is to end the vicious circle that is preventing a solution. The Lebanese Government stated it will agree to deploy its army in the south if the IDF withdraws. Israel is willing to withdraw on the condition that the Lebanese Army deploy and that there is a test period of six to nine months. Even if the Lebanese Government is sincere in its desire to reach an understanding with Israel, it is currently prevented from doing so by Syria, which has discovered in south Lebanon an important bargaining chip in its negotiations with Israel.

Our presence in south Lebanon also complicates things for the IDF from the tactical point of view. In closed sessions and briefings IDF officers admit that the SLA [South Lebanese Army] has turned into a liability. Desertions are on the rise, and it is more and more difficult to find new recruits.

In certain sectors, the IDF has refrained from deploying the SLA for fear that it is collaborating with Hizballah and contributing to the success of its attacks. In these sectors the IDF is forced to beef up its outposts with more soldiers. It now appears that the IDF is slowly creeping back into Lebanon. One can assume that Maj. Gen. Levin's policy of taking the initiative will not necessarily decrease the number of IDF forces in Lebanon, because even pinpoint operations call for backup forces.

The logic of Baraq's diagnosis of 10 years ago has lost nothing of its poignancy. His recommendations from that time should even be further encouraged, if only in order to take from al-Asad the trump card Israel gave him—not to mention saving lives.

The problem with learned diagnoses, however, is that they have to stand the political test. They must become popular, seeing that withdrawal is not a popular business. The General Staff's support of withdrawal is not enough—it is apparently waiting for the public to get tired of hearing about more soldiers being killed there.

Such public opinion has still not surfaced, and it is hard to tell when this will happen. The intifadah demanded a toll of hundreds of dead Israelis and Arabs before it turned into a peace process, or at least into an understanding that it is necessary to withdraw from Gaza, even if unilaterally. Lebanon is less intensive; it gulps up its victims more slowly, thereby misleading the public.

At the present time it is more acceptable for soldiers to die in Lebanon than at the Netzarim junction, because in Netzarim there is peace and in Lebanon war. Nobody is considering the possibility of equating the status of these two localities. Even those who have called for unilateral withdrawal from Gaza keep silent when it comes to Lebanon. Because there—so they were led to believe—the IDF is guarding our northern settlements. Except, of course, when katyushas fall on Qiryat Shemona or Granot, or when a building in Argentina or a plane in Panama is blown to smithereens, or when so many IDF soldiers of the same school class die along south Lebanon's roads.

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Al-Majali Views Islamic Summit Resolutions

'Holy Places' Issue Debated

JN1612195294 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Dec 94

[News conference by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali with unidentified correspondents at the Prime Ministry in Amman on 16 December—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Another matter of interest to us is Jerusalem. A meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers was presented with a paper from the preparatory committee and the General Secretariat on Jerusalem. The resolution was clear. We have no objection to the resolution per se. On the contrary, we support the resolution. We felt, however, that that resolution should have taken note of Jordan's role in the holy places.

It seems that the issue is still unclear in the minds of many people. Jordan is perceived by some as if it is out to control Jerusalem itself and the holy places and abrogate that right from the Palestinian people. The Islamic summit noted Jordan's reservations about the resolution not recognizing Jordan's and his majesty the king's role in the holy places he has been taking care of. There were different interpretations at the conference of what taking care of the holy places is all about. Some people understand what this is, others do not. Taking care of something means to look after what is in one's trust. As you all know, Jordan has, to this day, looked after these holy places. Another misunderstanding at the conference was the misconception that we wanted something new. There is nothing new there. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has, since the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem in 1967 and the subsequent disengagement with the West Bank, looked after the holy places. The relevant clauses in the Washington Declaration and the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty only reiterate the status quo. We are waiting for our Palestinian brothers to negotiate the final status of Jerusalem so that they regain sovereignty over the city and the holy places. There is no Palestinian-Jordanian dispute whatsoever over the issue. It is a question of misunderstanding the services being administered by Jordan. [passage omitted]

His majesty said in his address to the Islamic summit that we cannot leave the issue in a vacuum, because if we give up custodianship of the holy place, the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs will take over and do with them as it pleases. This is the core of the matter. We stand behind the Palestinian people's efforts to regain their freedom and right to their land and soil. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Regarding Jerusalem, Mr. Prime Minister: You said that Jordan has voiced reservations about the proposal made by the General Secretariat because it omits any reference to Jordan's role. My question is whether that proposal ends Jordan's role in Jerusalem? Will Jordan continue to look after the holy places or not? Was any proposal put forward regarding holy places in Mecca and Medina and Shiite places in the Muslim world?

[Al-Majali] Other than the holy places in Jerusalem, none were mentioned. Jordan will keep looking after the holy places in Jerusalem. Nothing was said by anyone against Jordan's role in this regard. There is nothing in the resolution that excludes Jordan or is against Jordan's custodianship. Our reservations were about the resolution's failure to mention Jordan.

[Correspondent] Meaning that Jordan will continue...

[Al-Majali, interrupting] Jordan will continue until such time as the Palestinian brothers conclude their negotiations and exorcize their sovereignty over the territory and the holy places. To quote his majesty the king, they will be offered to them on a silver platter.

[Correspondent] But there was no resolution for continued Jordanian custodianship?

[Al-Majali] There was no resolution for or against. Why should there be one when we are already looking after these places?

[Correspondent] With this omission and the reservations about the resolution, would it be fair to say that Arab relations are still in crisis?

[Al-Majali] Absolutely not. On the contrary, the atmosphere among Arab brothers at the conference was comfortable. We would have liked the conference to be an occasion to effect inter-Arab reconciliation. His majesty the king met with various parties. I had a cordial meeting with His Highness Shaykh Zayid. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal also greeted us. There was also a cordial session between his majesty the king and the foreign minister of Kuwait. There were meetings and these add up to positive indications. There is no tension in relations with the Gulf states. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] If there is no Jordanian-Palestinian dispute over Jerusalem and if there is no willful intent on the part of others to ignore Jordan's role in Jerusalem, I would like to ask whether Jordan has done enough to clarify its position, or, as I think is the case, we have been remiss in explaining our position. You yourself have said that Jordan's position is not clear to many people. I think we should be blamed if we failed to explain our position. What do you think?

[Al-Majali] When it comes to the apportioning of blame, I never spare myself, but in this particular case, I beg to disagree. This is because we made our position clear to the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization. Our position was also made clear in Jeddah by our representatives. We also stated our case clearly at the foreign ministers conference. But, as you know, we are sometimes misrepresented by press or other reports, in good or bad faith, or due to a superficial handling of issues. [passage omitted]

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Even in the Arab world very few recognize the depth of Jordanian- Palestinian relations. Even Arabs who are closest geographically to us do not know how deep this relationship is. They seem to think that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship can be compared with any ties between any two Arab states, and they are wrong there. Unfortunately, people do not know enough about this relationship to appreciate it. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Was it not possible to set up a meeting between his majesty the king and President Yasir 'Arafat, which could have had a positive impact on the conference? My second question is: At the Palestinian-Jordanian forum in London, you were quoted by Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir as saying that the Islamic summit has nothing to say about the custodianship over Jerusalem. You have also just said that there is nothing new as far as 'Arafat's visit to Jordan. Can you put things in perspective?

[Al-Majali] President 'Arafat and his majesty did meet on the sidelines of the Casablanca summit, and it was a cordial meeting. The date for President 'Arafat's visit to Jordan came up. There is nothing new here and there is no tension. As for whether the Islamic summit can decide on who has custodianship, I think you are giving the conference more credit than it deserves. Such conferences are not tribunals. People assemble to associate and mix with each other. The Jerusalem draft did not address the question of who should or should not have custodianship.

[Correspondent] The custom has been to use Arab or Islamic summits to sort out differences. Have there been any mediation efforts to improve Jordan's relations with the Gulf states?

[Al-Majali] The most important thing at such conferences are bilateral contacts rather than what takes place in the assembly hall. For example, the Algerian prime minister met with his majesty the king and laid out his countries policies, as did his majesty the king. His majesty also met with Iraqi, Omani, and Yemeni leaders. The occasion was not meant to bring about Arab reconciliation. But we met in the corridors. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You pointed out that his majesty the king and the Kuwaiti foreign minister had a meeting. Will you fill us in on that and how do you evaluate the chances for relations between the two countries returning to a normal footing?

[Al-Majali] The meeting was not prearranged. As you know, delegation heads assemble in halls before proceeding to the conference hall. During a break, they chatted and exchanged greetings. I was not there. [laughter] I do not think they got around to discussing political matters. [passage omitted]

'No Objection' to Jerusalem Decision

JN1612112794 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said Jordan has no objection to a resolution on Jerusalem adopted by the Islamic summit, which ended in Casablanca last night. But the prime minister told the press that Jordan had expressed reservation about denial of Jordan's custody of religious holy shrines in Jerusalem. Dr. Al-Majali, who returned from Casablanca early today, said there were no political implication of Jordan's custody of holy shrines and that the day would come for the Palestinians to take over this role. The prime minister also told the reporters that other issues which figured high on the summit agenda were Middle East peace, terrorism, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other Islamic affairs.

He said his majesty the king's speech at the summit was received with satisfaction and that King Hassan of Morocco, chairman of the summit, had expressed his satisfaction with the clarity and frankness of the speech. The prime minister said that Jerusalem committee would meet in mid-January after Egypt joined its membership.

Iranian Embassy Denies Funding Hamas

JN1812094094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Dec 94 p 12

[Report by Ghadir Tahir]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—The Iranian Embassy Saturday [17 December] categorically denied a U.S. Congressional report's claim that it was acting as a conduit for Iranian assistance to the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

According to the report released in Washington this week by the U.S. Congressional Research Service "there is some circumstantial evidence to suggest Jordan unwittingly or reluctantly is hosting a potential conduit to Hamas," in reference to the Iranian Embassy in Amman.

Iran's ambassador to Jordan Ahmad Dastmalchian told the JORDAN TIMES on Saturday that his embassy "has no relations whatsoever with any Jordanian or Palestinian political parties or groups, including Hamas."

"The embassy strongly denies these lies and accusations," said the ambassador, who was named in the report. "My main priority is to build and expand brotherly relations with the government of Jordan."

The Iranian Embassy in Jordan was reopened in 1992.

"It is possible," that Mr. Dastmalchian, "might aid Hamas through Iran's embassy there, if assertions of Iranian aid to Hamas are true," the Congressional report said.

The report based its assertions on the envoy's background and the circumstances of his appointment to the mission in Jordan. Amman accepted Tehran's nominee for the post, the report said, "despite reported concerns that he would back Islamic extremists in the Kingdom as he supported Hizbollah during his previous tenure."

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"The embassy, based on mutual respect and observance of diplomatic protocol, does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries," said Mr. Dastmalchian. "Based on this, we categorically deny those rumors carried by Zionist broadcasts and some foreign news agencies." [passage omitted]

Mr. Dastmalchian said there has been no contact with the Jordanian authorities over the report's allegations. [passage omitted]

Minister Appeals for Intervention in Chechnya

NC1812083794 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Dec 94

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, minister of state for legal and parliamentary affairs and deputy in Parliament representing the Chechens and Circassians, in Amman, by Fayiz al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Jundi] Minister, as a descendant of Chechen origin who can speak on behalf of the Chechens, tell us about the root of the crisis between you and President Yeltsin. It is known that the Chechens declared their independence in 1991. The question is: Why did the crisis, as we are seeing it now, not begin then?

[Jammu] The Chechen nation has been fighting Russia for over 225 years, since before the communist regime came into being. The whole war was in defense of their land and faith. The Chechens have not sought to commit aggression against others.

When the Soviet state fell, the communist regime changed and the Islamic and other republics that originally formed part of the Soviet Union began to emerge. The Chechens who aspired for freedom and independence declared their independence. Financially, they are able to establish their state on their own and be independent on their land. The awkward thing is that Russia, Yeltsin, and the other various fronts inside Russia did not move against the Chechens until now. I do not know the reason.

But we know that three years have passed since the declaration of independence, which, without objection, gives them the right to independence. Coming up to three years after the declaration they began to come in close contact with the Chechens and finally sent their troops to reoccupy Chechnya.

[Al-Jundi] Before Russian troops were sent to occupy the Chechen capital, we heard of the so-called national council that represents the opposition. What is the nature of this council, Minister?

[Jammu] There has been no Chechen opposition council but there were some people Russia provided with arms, money, and men. They sought to topple and change the regime, utilized slight errors made by the Chechen Government, and incited the people. But I was in Moscow and called on the Chechens to refrain from civil war; Russia wants them to fight each other so that they can have the land. The Chechens did not take part in the fight and the conspiracy failed.

[Al-Jundi] Any military intervention by one country in another is preceded by preparations in the country in which the intervention will take place. Can you identify these preparations in Chechnya?

[Jammu] Inciting the Chechens by capitalizing on the mistakes committed by the new regime. These mistakes helped the conspirators to enter the country and incite some Chechens against Dudayev. There have been no other preparations except those to incite the conspirators inside the country.

[Al-Jundi] Minister, you alluded to what you called slight errors and then mentioned mistakes. Can you elaborate?

[Jammu] We are in a situation where we do not want to stir up the existing differences between some of the Chechens and Dudayev, because we should be in a position where the Chechens are united and defend their land. We know the Chechens number 1.5 million and the Russians 160 million, with all the sources of strength and destruction. We said we advise all the parties concerned not to engage in a war that will victimize women, children, and the elderly and destroy their villages.

The Chechens are a simple yet brave nation but this bravery is not enough to gain victory, because plurality overwhelms bravery. In any case, we do not like war, even if the Chechens were to triumph. What we would like is for all the forces of good and peace, the Security Council, and all Arab and Muslim leaders to intervene to tell Yeltsin that the destruction of an innocent, weak nation that has no means of strength, but wants to be independent and have complete freedom on its land, is not permissible.

Committees Discuss Water Development Issues

JN1512210894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Dec 94

[Report by correspondent Nimr Mijhim al-'Adwan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Jordanian-Israeli joint committees assigned with discussing ways of developing the Jordan Rift Valley resumed their meetings in Dayr 'Alla today.

[Begin Mundhir Haddan, head of Jordanian delegation, recording] Today's meeting focussed on two issues: The first is water projects in the peace treaty, and the second is the coasts of the Gulf of Aqaba and development issues there. It was agreed that these issues will be included in the development of the Jordan Rift Valley. As for the water projects in the peace treaty, talks dealt with the contribution the European Union [EU] intends to provide in the form of feasibility studies and designing

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of systems for water storage on the River Jordan, one of the diversion dams, probably a storage facility on the al-Yarmuk River, and a desalinization station for the saline water that flows into the River Jordan in order to protect the quality of water in the river and to produce fresh water of which Jordan will get 10 million cubic meters of drinkable water, according to the treaty. [end recording]

The EU's contribution comes in the form of a grant to finance economic feasibility studies for the water projects in the Jordan Valley. This was decided following His Highness Prince Hasan's recent meeting with the EC in Brussels. [passage omitted]

During the meeting on the Gulf of Aqaba to implement the articles of the peace treaty, discussions dealt with the joint development projects in the Gulf in the tourist, transportation, environment, and electricity linkage sectors. [passage omitted]

In implementation of Article 7 of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty on joint economic cooperation, the Jordanian-Israeli Joint Economic Committee held its first meeting and formed a subcommittee specialized in investments, trade exchange, and banks. [passage omitted]

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Hizballah Leaders Urge Attacks on IDF, SLA

TA1612165994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Dec 94 p A4

[Report by army affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Senior Hizballah officials, including Na'im Qasim, the deputy leader of the organization, yesterday called on Hizballah to step up attacks against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] in the security zone.

The calls were issued at a number of rallies that were organized following the attempts to assassinate two key Hizballah officials in south Lebanon. In an assassination attempt on 14 December, a roadside bomb was detonated near the village of Zawtar in south Lebanon's Central Sector, as a car carrying two senior officials, Faris Harb and 'Abd-al-Majid Mar'i, drove by. The two men were seriously wounded.

Yesterday, Israel continued to refrain from responding to Hizballah's charges that Jerusalem had been behind the attempted assassination. [passage omitted]

The IDF and the SLA are on high alert for possible retaliatory attacks by Hizballah. Intelligence sources at the Northern Command expressed the assessment that yesterday's relative quiet was only a temporary hiatus and that Hizballah would increase its attempts to strike at the IDF and the SLA. Major General 'Amiram Levine, the commander of the Northern Command, received briefings on the situation yesterday.

Military sources at the Northern Command said that the IDF and SLA were continuing to conduct activities against terrorist organizations everywhere. The analysts believe that morale in Hizballah is high in light of the organization's recent successes. [passage omitted]

SLA Chief on Reaction to Israeli Threats

NC1712091694 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement he made through a telephone contact from Marj 'Uyun two days ago, South Lebanese Army [SLA] commander General Antoine Lahd refused to divulge the extent of the reaction that Israeli threats and preparations on the ground are indicating. He said that divulging the extent of this reaction would not mean it would remain so.

In reply to what Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah said at his news conference on Wednesday [14 December], Gen. Lahd said: Hasan Nasrallah should understand that all his threats mean nothing to the SLA, because he is aware of the SLA's strength and capabilities and can do nothing against it except attack it through the media. He should also understand that it is Hizballah's military future that is hopeless.

Gen. Lahd added that the problem lies in Nasrallah's propaganda through the Lebanese media and state.

Nasrallah Stresses Role of Islamic Resistance

NC1912101094 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has affirmed that the Islamic Resistance overpowers the Zionist enemy by its resolve and will. He said the fear and panic of the Khomeyni phenomenon as Rabin and the others cite it stems from the Khomeyni phenomenon representing Islam after the prophet, may God's prayers and salutations be upon him and his scion.

Nasrallah yesterday addressed a ceremony marking a week since martyrs (Hani) Bakr and ('Ali) Taha died in the Islamic Resistance's epic confrontation of a Zionist convoy in Marj 'Uyun. He said: I tell Rabin, Peres, Barag, and all leaders of this enemy that the Islam that defeated you in Medina, Khaybar, and the Arab Peninsula—the Islam of mujahidin and martyrs—is coming, O Jews, to south Lebanon, Palestine, and all the world and to you. It will come through the martyrdom of Islamists.

He added that Islam launched the Resistance and made it viable and that the Zionists understand that they are fighting a breed of people who fear no death. He stressed that the enemy's threats and warnings will not scare us and will change nothing, neither the Resistance's resolution nor its will.

He said that when the Israeli funeral processions once more head toward the occupied territories in Palestine, the enemy's government will be forced to retreat as it did in 1985. He asked: Why does the enemy fight the youths of our villages and why should these youths be shields for the Zionists? He said: Let the Israelis come and face them to see how they will be forced to retreat.

The Hizballah secretary general addressed a call to the inhabitants of the occupied strip, saying: If you have any hopes for the return of the land, do not count on the American mediator, who does not recognize international resolutions, especially Resolution 425. He added: The international community's credibility has fallen and the only remaining hope is the Resistance.

Hizballah, IDF-SLA Exchange Artillery in South

Clandestine Reports 2 Israelis Killed

NC1912080094 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Dec 94

[Report from the newsdesk—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Peace be upon you. According to security information we received a while ago, the Islamic Resistance shelled enemy emplacements inside the Tal-lusah position using the appropriate weapons. Direct hits were recorded. The information added that two Zionists

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were killed and a helicopter was seen landing in the area to transport the wounded. AFP cited a security source in the south saying that a Zionist soldier was killed this morning and another was wounded in a qualitative attack launched by the Islamic Resistance mujahidin against a Zionist patrol. The agency also cited a Zionist military source as saying that an artillery battle has been taking place since morning between the Zionist Army and its Agents and the mujahidin of the Islamic Resistance. Zionist warplanes are launching mock raids against Iqlim al-Tuffah, drawing anti-aircraft fire from the Islamic Resistance.

I have just received word that a group from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command attacked an enemy patrol on the Markaba road at 0735. Several vehicles were burned and human losses were reported. Following this attack, enemy artillery in Mirkaybih and [name indistinct] shelled Wadi al-Salluqi, the periphery of Majdal Silm, and Qabrikha with 155-mm and 120-mm rounds.

Hizballah Scores 'Victory'

NC1911500194 Beirut Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0658 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The top story this morning is that of Islamic Resistance operations, which scored a new victory against the Zionist occupiers.

At 0610 today, the Islamic Resistance artillery pounded an enemy assembly at the Tallusah Post, killing or wounding all the personnel manning the post.

At 0735 a Resistance group attacked an enemy patrol on the Markaba-Tallusah Road using machine guns and rockets. Several vehicles were burned and human losses were confirmed among the patrol members. Security sources confirmed that two members of the Zionist patrol were killed and many others wounded. An enemy helicopter was seen landing at the scene to evacuate the enemy's dead and wounded.

Citing a security source in the south, AFP said a Zionist soldier was killed and another wounded in a qualitative attack by the Islamic Resistance mujahidin on a Zionist patrol this morning.

The French agency also cited a Zionist military source saying that artillery battles have been raging this morning between the Zionist army and Agents and the Islamic Resistance mujahidin.

Zionist warplanes are conducting mock raids over areas in Iqlim al-Tuffah, where they are being confronted by Islamic Resistance anti-aircraft guns.

As part of the Zionist acts of aggression, the outskirts of Majdal Silm an Qabrikha came under 155 and 120-mm artillery fire originating from [placenames indistinct] and al-'Abbasi.

Israelis Shell 'Resistance' Residence

NC1911205194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At 0830 today the Israeli occupation forces bombarded the villages of Majdal Silm with tank artillery and 120-mm mortar fire. Shells landed in the residential areas of the village, setting several homes and injuring several people. Israeli forces pounded the village of al-Sawwanah, the al-Qantarah triangle, and the al-Junjumah hills. Earlier they shelled the villages of Qabrikha and the outskirts of al-Sawwanah. They raked the area from the Hula hills to the (Mirqab) settlement with machine-gun fire. The resistance retaliated by shelling the posts of Tallusah, Hula, and Tallat al-Hadiyah with rockets and 81-mm mortar fire.

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Damascus Reacts to U.S. Grand no Cotton Resolution

PM151343Z94 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The UN General Assembly [UNGA] yesterday passed a draft resolution on the occupied Syrian Golan. Only Israel and the United States voted against the draft resolution. The draft resolution demanded Israel withdrawal from the entire occupied Syrian Golan in compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions. [passage omitted]

The U.S. delegate justified his country's position by saying that the passing of the draft resolution by the UNGA will not support or encourage the peace process because it will just add another resolution that will cause differences. He added that the resolution is clearly biased toward one part in the negotiations. He said that from the U.S. Government's viewpoint, passing this resolution will harm the outcome of the negotiations.

A responsible source at the Syrian Foreign Ministry has commented on the U.S. position. He said the resolution on the Golan does not conflict with the basis of the peace process. On the contrary, this resolution is in harmony with the major objective of this process, namely, the land-for-peace principle. This is especially true since the negotiations do not aim to change the principles of international law or legitimize the occupation of others' territory, but to facilitate the implementation of these principles and achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on ending the Israeli occupation, so that such peace can be established.

The source continued: Had the United States voted for this resolution, it would not have continued with its role as a cosponsor of the peace process and as an honest broker because, if it had, it would have been considered to be in conformity with the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 497. The United States took part in drafting these resolutions and voted for them, he noted.

The source said: What actually conflicts with the U.S. role as an honest broker and a cosponsor of the peace process is its bias toward the Israeli side, whose occupation is violating both the principles of international law and international legitimacy. Consequently, the U.S. vote against this resolution is akin to voting against the basis of the peace process that is being cosponsored by the United States. This calls for amendment.

The Foreign Ministry has summoned the U.S. acting envoy in Damascus and informed him of its astonishment at the U.S. position.

Al-Asad Addresses Arab Lawyers Delegation on Peace

PM161134Z94 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received at the People's Palace at 1200 today a delegation from the Arab Lawyers Union, which was in Damascus on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Arab Lawyers Union in Damascus in 1944. [passage omitted]

President al-Asad thanked the Arab lawyers for their sentiments, feelings, and support for Syria's position. He said: The people's will is the main thing. Our Arab people have faced several challenges and difficult times but it triumphed through their will and adherence to their territory and rights.

The president added: There are attempts and pressures to influence our nation's morale and to distort our history and heritage. However, our nation can--if it maintains its vigilance, determination, and military spirit--face and defeat them. If someone fails, he cannot lead others to fail with him.

The president said: Syria seeks the just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy. However, it does not relinquish territory and rights. Its position has always been straight and it gives priority to the Arab nation's concerns and interests.

The president added: Syria agrees to the international resolutions and is sincere in its work to make the peace process reach its goal. We cannot approve of any step that infringes on our pan-Arab security. It further acts in parallel and in cooperation with fraternal Lebanon.

The president hailed the Arab lawyers, who, 50 years ago, established the Arab Lawyers Union in Damascus. He said: We must preserve what steps before us have accomplished on the path of unity. We must continue their march and develop what they have accomplished until we achieve the nation's objectives.

Al-Shara' on "Conviction," Security Arrangements

PM130133Z94 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 11 Nov 94 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara' by Sana' al-Sa'id in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Sa'id] It is reported that the United States has arranged for an understanding between Syria and Israel in which it approved the settling U.S. troops to patrol the Golan Heights. The deal also includes removing Syria from the list of states that harbor terrorism?

[Al-Shara'] The subject of dispatching U.S. troops was not proposed at all. The issue of removing Syria from the list of states that harbor terrorism has not been discussed recently. It was discussed in Geneva at the beginning of this year but was not proposed later on. We know that putting Syria on this list is not based on any legal grounds. All the accusations leveled against Syria to the effect that it harbors terrorism are baseless. Syria has been placed on the list for political reasons, which Israel is behind. The objectives are clear. They are to put pressure on Syria to make concessions, to damage Syrian-American relations, and to impose some kind of boycott on Syria. Since the days of James Baker, Syria

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has been asking the United States to provide the views of evidence justifying putting it on the terrorism list. But the Americans still has not offered any evidence. All they can do is find the excuse that [illegible] terrorist groups in Damascus. This includes those terrorist organizations and parties putting Syria on the terrorism list only because it provides them with shelter. This is our right, because these organizations have the right to express their opinions and rights in every legitimate way possible.

[A/Guard] Last month, before a planned tour by Cheney, Sophie, the United States hastily announced that it would not remove Syria from the terrorist list.

[A/Shar] We have responded with the statements that it does meet to the objectives and has. How more realize that Israel is the one who has practiced terrorism by expelling the Palestinians from their homeland and occupying their properties lands in 1948 and 1967.

Q: Do United States believe that the presence of these people in Syria constitutes a form of terrorism, is that to force Israel to return them to their country and homes in accordance with Resolution 194 of 1948 issued by the United Nations and backed by the United States and it is also true that its objective is to use pressure on Syria to force it to make concessions to Israel. This will never happen since the United States is keeping Syria's name on its list despite the fact that it acknowledges that there has been no evidence that Syria has helped any terrorist act since 1986.

[A/Guard] [illegible] more concessions on bringing the gas terrorists for the parties. But to whom and gas without them being any not starting peace. Israel's stand continues to become more rigid and more to settle to get pressure on Syria.

[A/Shar] We don't see hedge from any our statements whatever pressure we are on us. Israel's resistance as we meeting demands that have nothing to do with peace nothing to the region is proof that it does not want the just and comprehensive peace that the Arabs are seeking for. It merely wants to impose its hegemony on the Arabs. In all ways, Israel will adhere to all its rights and will reject any attempts to impose hegemony on it from Israel whether politically, economically, or militarily.

[A/Guard] Israel accuses Syria of encouraging terrorism and claims that Arafat[illegible] weapons got to it through Damascus airport. In other words, the airport is being used as a transit point for weapons and that such a transit of affairs does not suit Syria.

[A/Shar] There are enough weapons in Lebanon for anyone who wants to make his acquisition. There is no need to use Damascus airport as a transit point for weapons. The strange thing is that Israel finds this acquisition while occupying the land of others by force. It should have realized that occupied people will invariably [illegible] the occupiers. Through the logic, it becomes clear that the Israel occupation is responsible for the presence of the Lebanese resistance. When the Israeli occupation ends, [illegible] the military and security [illegible] because [illegible] the existence will lose its significance of [illegible] its own.

[A/Guard] The European Union's [illegible] envoy decision to lift the arms embargo on Syria may also to pressure a conflict-ridden Syria to implementation peace [illegible] and allow the United's economic to export arms to Syria.

[A/Shar] The arms before the decision is not the European Community as it is European [illegible] of a possible Arab commercial against Syria exists. The important point here is the Europe want to ban Syria from acquiring technology which its planes that is would help in the modernization of military equipment in which there is [illegible]. Therefore, the word [illegible] is important for us in order not economic pressure. The decision is a step towards opening the road further so to provide us with technology. It is, in response, that we are not important to us since we have other important markets from Europe.

[A/Guard] Israel has been saying that its two allies, Israel and Syria have recently agreed to support the Washington talks to include military aspects to settle to discuss security arrangements.

[A/Shar] First, the Washington talks that is not yet reach any progress has never pressed us to discuss the issues of the security arrangements. In any case, Syria will only accept security arrangements on an equal footing with its other ends.

[A/Guard] But you would accept the possibility of deploying U.S. troops on the Golan Heights as part of the security arrangements?

[A/Shar] The issue of U.S. troop deployment is a purely one. We will express our views when this issue is raised.

[A/Guard] Israel is requesting high-level meetings with Syrian officials to solve problems like access to the airport at the current level of negotiations and is unlikely to create a stand that can only be made by leaders.

[A/Shar] There will be no meetings at the leadership level with Israel. The leaders only meet with the peace sponsor, the United States. Peace can be achieved through the intermediary. We would have met with Arafat right after the Israeli [illegible] to us. But no peace could come about at the leadership level when one party is occupied by the [illegible]. How could that be?

[A/Guard] Israel Foreign Minister Shamir is from the right as that it is Israel that is concerning itself to others even and Israel would even have occupied Arab lands if this had not been prevented by force.

[A/Shar] The Israelis have not, and have not, created their own Israel has created and through expansion.

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[illegible]

[illegible]

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[illegible]

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[

events to follow him. He has therefore published a model. Furthermore, they all respect each other. This is not a power struggle.

Look gentlemen. Those who refer to such issues from abroad are so unfair that they are willing to speak any lie. It is not possible to imagine any human conscience in them. For example, take the Majlis speaker and the president. There are the two of them. One is the Majlis speaker. An other the president. They live in the country like two brothers. The honorable head of the legislature and the head of the three powers behave toward each other like two brothers. Everybody's behavior toward the great leader is like that of children toward their kind father. And then they write that there is a power struggle in Iran. You remember the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of Russia. Mr. Yeltsin was the president. Another gentleman was the head of the parliament. What did they do to each other? That was a power struggle. They attacked each other with guns and tanks. They destroyed the parliament. That was a power struggle. They do not speak about the Russian events but on them is a power struggle in Iran. Thank God, there is no power struggle in Iran. There is only friendship, there is only brotherhood, there is only equality. It is clear who the leader is and who the source of revelation is. Thank God, there is no doubt and no problem in Iran. And we thank God for this [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Khamenei Delivers Second Friday Prayers Sermon

[AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI] Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon at Tehran University of Tehran Prayers Network in Persian [ALI LARI] 10 Dec 98

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi-Kashani, Guardian Council spokesman, in Tehran on 10 December--recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate [passage omitted] There are a number of issues that, God willing, I want to talk about in this sermon. They are lengthy debates, but I will refer to them very briefly.

The first issue is that we have not explained and clarified sufficiently the issue of the source of religious authority and the guardianship of the cause of Muslims. Perhaps this has not been clarified very well even inside the country, let alone abroad. It is for this reason that you see when something happens and when some words are spoken, then the arrogance propaganda apparatus and the foreign news media begin their lines of analysis.

The issue of Velayat [the guardianship] is not to do with executive [law] matters. The issue of the guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult [Velayate faqih] is not merely to do with political matters. Instead the issue concerns religious matters, of which politics is just one part. This is the meaning of Velayat.

Of course this is a technical and specialist debate and the Friday prayers tribune is not, as far as the matters of jurisprudence are concerned, a proper place to deal with it. However, I only want to make a brief reference to the issue.

All the affairs of the Islamic country and society--that is, legislative, judicial, and executive affairs--derive their legitimacy from the supreme jurisconsult. [passage omitted]

In Islamic jurisprudence, marja'iyat means being the religious and Islamic source of reference, and those of course also embrace political issues. The position, thus, is a very senior one.

There is, however, another issue during every era there are several people who are jurisconsults who meet and undergo all the necessary requirements [terms] al-Shareyat]. But the point is that the authority belongs to the one who has the allegiance of the nation, and this allegiance is through the Assembly of Experts, which votes for the supreme jurisconsult.

Therefore, the supreme jurisconsult has the nation and its allegiance behind him. The position, thus, has such a basis for its authority in executive affairs, in ratifying laws, and in having legitimacy.

When we look at this fact we realize what a huge and grave responsibility the holding of this position entails. The eminent leader of the revolution, may his shadow extend, assessed this great responsibility on 19 December, showing that his leadership is such that he wants to be present in, and supervise over, all affairs. [passage omitted]

You see that the eminent leader of the revolution [Khamenei] emphasizes the issue of responsibility, and the same responsibility is also stressed by the Qom Theological Lecturers Association, or the Tehran Militant Clergy Association [name's or subscription's authority's abbrev] or other orders and associations. They all agree that the holder of the post of marja'iyat should be expert in recognizing right and wrong in issues of religious jurisprudence.

The issue of marja'iyat in religious jurisprudence means that the one who does not know should refer to the one who does know. The point is a major one. But what is fundamental is the issue of Velayate faqih [the guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult]. Therefore the issue is a major one and it should not be harmed. That is why this Khamenei [Ayatollah Khamenei] made the remarks you heard on Wednesday [passage omitted]

I would like to talk briefly about this Islamic Conference [Organization] summit of high heads of state. The honorable foreign minister of the Islamic Republic talked about the conclusion of the summit on the radio. As he has said, the conclusion was relatively good. However, I would like to talk to you briefly about those very same conclusions.

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For Islamic countries to talk about stopping the cultural onslaught against Islam is very good. For this to be on the agenda of the summit was itself a big step. However, this requires tools, action, and equipment. Islamic countries must follow up this summit and committee meetings and decide what to do. For example, cultural exchanges, film production... [passage] Why should our films come from the West? We have to stop the cultural invasion. One of the aspects of the cultural invasion is having a woman looking like that coming on the screens of the television. This is one aspect of the cultural onslaught; we have to stop it. We have to produce films ourselves, let Islamic countries exchange films, let them produce videos.

On satellite stations. We would like to thank the Islamic Consultative Majlis, which has taken a step toward banning satellites. It was a timely deed. However, there is nothing wrong with satellites in themselves. The satellite has been banned because it is being used in the spread of corruption. Let Islamic countries establish satellite channels and transmit Islamic programs, Islamic arts, and interesting films. This step can lead to results.

Other issues. The issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina although Islamic countries have started helping Bosnia, and although it is a step in the right direction, to tell you the truth, Islamic countries have to be mobilized to put pressure on international organizations.

What does this mean? You talk about human rights. Iran, the Islamic Republic, has a basis and a program on human rights—it is the Islamic program. Here we have the best human rights situation. You nag at us, you say these things, just as your other pieces of propaganda against us. You who talk so much, what is happening to the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina? Muslims should not be satisfied with this situation.

On the situation of Palestine. The people should put pressure so that a compromise is not reached with that illegal and usurper Israel. If the people exert pressure, we shall have results. [Crowd chants: "God is great," "Khomeini is the leader," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"] [passage omitted]

Embassy in Jordan Denies Providing Aid to Palestinians

LD191130Z94 Tehran IRNA in English 1041 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Dec. 18, (IRNA)—The Iranian Embassy in a statement here today denied that it was providing financial or any other kind of assistance to combatant Jordanian and Palestinian groups.

It said the Zionist radio and certain foreign news agencies had recently alleged that the Iranian Embassy in Amman was providing help to certain Palestinian movements.

The statement added that expansion and promotion of brotherly relations was on the agenda of the Iranian Embassy within the framework of the policy of respect for other countries and non interference in their internal affairs.

The statement strongly refuted the allegations and reiterated that the Iranian Embassy in Amman has not extended any kind of assistance to Palestinian groups, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

U.S. Helicopter Incident in DPRK 'Complex'

NC1912111894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 19 Dec 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The downing of a U.S. military helicopter in the North Korean border region has again swathed Washington-Pyongyang relations in a haze of ambiguity. That one of the two pilots was killed makes the situation more complex.

The United States says the helicopter had to make an emergency landing on North Korean soil due to technical defects and has asked for the pilot to be extradited. North Korea contends that the entry of the U.S. helicopter into its airspace violates the country's sovereignty and has called for the pilot to be interrogated. The investigation confirms North Korea's allegations and this is why efforts by the U.S. emissary, Bill Richardson, for the extradition of the pilot have been futile.

It is being predicted that relations between the United States and North Korea, which were on the mend, may become crisis-ridden again. This is because U.S. military planes entering North Korean territory is an episode construed as being tantamount to a threat against Pyongyang, something that contravenes the stipulations of the Geneva Accord.

In the Geneva Accord, the United States assured Pyongyang that there would be no kind of attack or military action against North Korea. The guarantee of North Korea's security by the United States was one of the basic principles of the Geneva Accord. Now the unjustified entry of a U.S. helicopter into North Korea's military domain has generated some kind of suspicion and doubt about U.S. goodwill regarding its relations with North Korea.

There is a possibility that because Pyongyang insists on questioning the U.S. helicopter pilot, the United States may renege on its commitment on reconstructing North Korea's nuclear reactors. Such an approach would heighten the danger of a crisis in relations between the United States and North Korea.

Regardless of the possibility of Washington-Pyongyang relations deteriorating, the downing of the U.S. helicopter in East Asia could undermine the U.S. Administration's popularity at home and abroad. The question is:

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What kind of adventurism are the U.S. military forces seeking in the area of North Korea? Who will answer for the death of the American helicopter pilot? The answers to these two questions are agitating the minds of White House policy formulators more than any others.

Commentary Views Bahrain Unrest, GCC Differences

NC1912081394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 19 Dec 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] will meet in Manama, the capital of Bahrain, today. This session, which Qatar will probably boycott, faces a problem in the surfacing of political unrest in Bahrain.

A month ago the Qatari Government boycotted the GCC ministerial session in Riyadh because of worsening border differences with Saudi Arabia. The prospect of Qatar not participating in this session has increased, since these border differences have intensified in the past few weeks and culminated in clashes and the impounding of Qatari vessels by Saudi coastguards. This possibility has been heightened by the presence of similar and deep-rooted border differences between Qatar and Bahrain, which is hosting the current GCC session.

For years Qatar and Bahrain have wrangled over the islands of Hawar and Fasht al-Dibal, on which Saudi Arabia has constantly backed Bahrain. Qatar's efforts to resolve these differences by resorting to authorized international sources achieved nothing, due to Saudi Arabia's opposition to such efforts.

A few months ago the mufti of Saudi Arabia announced that for the courts of the infidel countries to solve the differences among Islamic governments is unlawful and opposed to the shari'ah. He thus conveyed his government's overt opposition to international judicial authorities resolving the affair. It is obvious that if the other side had accepted this, the current crisis could have been amicably resolved, which, on principle, would be based on regional public opinion, even though it has not elicited the necessary support of the GCC.

Political analysts believe that as long as such tussles, especially border differences, continue among the GCC countries and its members are politically polarized from within, divergent elements in the GCC will be more active than the convergent elements and will thwart any serious cooperation among the littoral emirates of the Persian Gulf.

Commentaries View 'Unequal War' in Chechnya

Russia Accused of 'Warmongering'

LD1712141794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 17 Dec 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, Friday December 16, ordered a cease-fire asking his troops in the frontline to retreat. At the same time, the deadline set by Russian President Boris Yeltsin for the disarmament of the Chechen forces that was to expire Wednesday [14 December] was earlier extended for another two days—that is, until Saturday midnight. Reports say that Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin, Friday, announced his readiness to confer with Dudayev.

Political analysts say that seemingly with the passage of six days since the start of fighting in Chechnya, Russian and Chechen leaders are inclined to amicably resolve the crisis through political talks. This inclination has emerged due to a number of reasons, especially on the Russian side. As a matter of fact, the war in Chechnya has not gone the way the Kremlin had expected. Despite a lapse of six days since the start of the Russian invasion, Russian troops have failed to besiege the capital city of Groznyy. General resistance by the Chechens has created problems for the Russian military units. These units, which are equipped with far more sophisticated weapons as compared to those of the Chechens, have been deployed in the attack.

Meanwhile signs of resistance in the autonomous republics of Ingush and Dagestan against the Russians and their probable escalation have been instrumental in the Kremlin's warmongering posture becoming softer. Discontent and disobedience at the top level of the Red Army too have created doubts about the combat capability of the troops sent to Chechnya. A halt order to General Ivan Babichev, one of the three commanders of Russia's armored columns, which were proceeding toward Groznyy from the west, is an example of such a situation.

Under the conditions when Chechnya's military and volunteer units are engaged in an unequal war against the Russian forces, Dudayev observes the fate of the Chechens, especially the 400,000 residents of Groznyy, to be in danger. This is because the Russian units have already shown they can even bomb civilian regions in order to attain their military goals. Also, failure by the international community to actively check the Chechen crisis is another factor which has prompted Dudayev to continue his demand for a political solution to the turmoil. In this regard, political analysts believe that the current military stalemate in Chechnya confirms that the crisis faced by that republic can be resolved only through negotiations.

Chechnya Could Be Second Afghanistan

LD1612221594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 16 Sep 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, has given another 48 hour-long deadline to the Chechen people to lay down their arms. This deadline started as of early hours of Friday [16 December]. The

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new deadline comes following the complete seizure of the Groznyy, the capital city of the breakaway Chechen Republic by the Russian Army, when the Muslim people of Chechnya gathered in front of the presidential palace and announced that they are prepared to defend their country to the last drop of their blood.

In the meantime Mr. Dzhokhar Dudayev had declared his readiness to enter talks at high levels under condition when the Russian army withdraws from Chechnya. There are many probabilities brought up whether with the end of the deadline given by Mr. Boris Yeltsin the Russian Army will occupy Groznyy or not. However, it seems that before the end of this 48 hour-long deadline, in case the talks do not bear fruit, the army's intervention seems probable—especially under condition when Europe and the United States have evaluated the issue of Chechnya an internal Russian question—so Moscow is now less concerned over a negative reaction by the Western world to the probable military operations which will entail many casualties in Groznyy.

On this basis, Mr. Boris Yeltsin feels more free to carry out military operations. However, the arrival in Groznyy does not mean the end of the war. During the recent days, the Chechen Muslims have proved they are very serious in defending their homeland—more than what was assumed in Moscow—and it is also probable that with its arrival in Groznyy and bringing an end to the rule of Mr. Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Russian Army may get involved in long-term war all across the northern Caucasus. At any rate, there is no doubt that with the withdrawal of Russians from the developed guerrilla war in northern Caucasus will not be as easy as getting into Groznyy. [sentence as heard] And in case the Russian president does not have a realistic evaluation in this regard and act according to its military threats, the Caucasus would turn into a new swamp for Russia like the one in Afghanistan and perhaps one can say that for giving wrong signals to Russia, Europe, and the U.S. are interested that Russia get trapped into the swamp.

Portugal To Grant Line of Credit

LD1812104794 Tehran IRNA in English 0936 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—The Portugese Trade and Tourism Minister Fernando Faria de Oliveira underlined that his country has agreed to open a dlrs. 150 million line of credit for Iran to be used for purchase of consumer and industrial goods.

Speaking to the English-language 'IRAN NEWS' published Sunday [18 December], the minister announced that the two sides explored ways to facilitate expansion of industrial and trade relations.

"Different industries, including food and fisheries, ornamental rocks, ship-buiding and repairs as well as industrial moulding products, electrical equipment, stationeries, and packaging were specifically targeted during meetings", he added.

He also stated that initial agreement was reached for the export to Portugal of non-oil Iranian products including aluminium, copper, fruits, vegetables and sea food.

The line of credit, which will become available next month, will be opened by Portugal's Bank Fomento Exterior and will be warranted by the Portuguese Government and the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic, the paper quoted him as saying.

Agreement was also reached on setting up of an Irano-Portugese trade commission, the minister said adding that, the commission will meet every six months to evaluate the progress in the two countries trade partnership.

Luis A. Seabra, who is in charge of Air Portugal's technical contracts for maintenance and engineering told IRAN NEWS that his country is ready to negotiate supplying the Islamic Republic with airplane spare parts and maintenance.

Antonio Posser de Andrade, managing director of Portugal's largest food products company Nutriveste group, said his company has been doing business with Iran for the past several years. He added that negotiations during this round of talks resulted in agreements for Iranian purchase of 2.8 million liters of sunflower seed oil totaling dlrs. 40 million.

Joao A. Valente, general export director of Artal-Cipan pharmaceutical group also told the paper that before the Islamic revolution, his company's efforts to enter the Iranian market were met by stiff resistance from American firms operating here. However, he added that since the revolution, his company has been supplying the Islamic Republic pharmaceutical requirements and currently owned 90 percent of Iran's antibiotics market.

The daily quoted him as saying that in addition to selling its products to the Islamic Republic, his company is also active in transferring its technology to Iran. "While we supply Iran with our present technology, we continue research and development projects to gain new and updated technologies which we will also share with Iran", he underlined adding that, so, this is an ongoing partnership between the two nations.

"A letter of intent to set up pharmaceutical factories in Iran was signed during the visit", Valente said and stressed that the agreement will be finalized within the next two months.

Trade To Increase With Azerbaijan, Ukraine

LD1612171894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic and trade relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the countries of Ukraine and the Republic of Azerbaijan are to expand further.

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Our country's deputy commerce minister announced the above news today, and said: The volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Ukraine, which is currently around 30 million dollars, can increase to 300 million dollars and Iran can become the main provider of fuel, foodstuff, clothing, shoes, and some industrial equipment needed by Ukraine. In exchange, Iran can purchase iron, agricultural products, rubber, paper, wood, and some advanced industrial products.

On trade and economic ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the republic of Azerbaijan, our country's deputy commerce minister said: Currently the volume of the two countries' exchanges is 475 million dollars. He added: This figure will increase to more than 500 million dollars per year by the end of March 95.

Iranian-Burkino Faso Relations Discussed

LD1812192694 Tehran IRNA in English 1909 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—Burkina Faso's ambassador to Tehran, Moumouni Fabre, in his meeting with Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister, Mohammad Hashemi, here Sunday [18 December] called for setting up of the two countries' joint economic commission.

The Burkina Faso envoy called for following up of the accord signed during the visit to Tehran of his country's health minister earlier this year.

Hashemi pointed to the upgrading of Tehran-Ouagadougou relations with the dispatch of the Iranian ambassador to the country, and emphasized the importance of relations with the African nations.

He said the embassies of Iran in the African continent have doubled following the culmination of the Islamic revolution in Iran (1979). He hoped that the two countries would take steps to expand constructive relations.

South African Envoy Promotes Expanded Ties

LD1812203694 Tehran IRNA in English 1852 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, (IRNA)—South African Foreign Minister, Algred Nzo, in Pretoria on Sunday [18 December] called for promotion of relations between Iran and South Africa.

In a meeting with Iranian ambassador to South Africa, [Mohammad Shafif] Mahdavi, Nzo described his recent visit to Tehran as successful.

Mahdavi termed the process of bilateral relations as satisfactory and hoped the two sides by will make efforts to deepen mutual relations.

Velayati Examines Persian Gulf Issues at Seminar

LD1912120894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified announcer] The Fifth International Seminar on the Persian Gulf, entitled Horizons of Cooperation in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, opened in Tehran today in the presence of Iranian and foreign specialists. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] In the seminar, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati referred to the political developments that have occurred in the past decade and, examining the situation in the region and the Persian Gulf, he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to undertake any kind of cooperation with the countries of the region for the sake of establishing peace and stability in the region; it has many practical proposals and ideas in this connection.

He added: The expansion of economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation; a halt to weapons rivalry; and cooperation toward protecting the environment between the countries of the region can bring about a new chapter in cooperation between these countries.

Velayati stressed that the situation in the world today is such that any action in the region also affects the other countries of the region and said: As a powerful and great regional country, the Islamic Republic of Iran can use its vast resources to act as a bridge linking the Persian Gulf littoral countries and Central Asian countries, thus realizing the needs of many countries of the region.

He said that the countries of the region can solve their own problems without foreign mediation and stressed the need for bilateral talks. He added: Past experience has shown that the United Nations has also been unable to play its true role in solving regional crises; cooperation and friendship between the countries of the region must, therefore, become a principle and be considered a basic requirement.

[Announcer] According to our correspondent's report, Dr. Hadi Manafi, head of the Environmental Protection Organization, also delivered a speech at the seminar, which is being attended by a number of researchers and specialists on Persian Gulf issues from 11 countries, as well as foreign diplomats and envoys in Tehran and Iranian experts and researchers.

Dr. Manafi described the environmental situation in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman as worrying, and said: The destruction of the environment in this region will not only harm the countries of the region but will also threaten the economy of the world. He stressed: Since many countries of the world use sources of energy from the Persian Gulf region, they must cooperate with the countries of this region in removing environmental problems.

Velayati Reviews ICO Summit Results

LD1612155594 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here

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Friday [16 December] that the next summit meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] would be held in Tehran in December 1997.

Talking to IRNA on his return from Dar-el-Beida [Casablanca], Morocco, where he represented Iran at the OIC summit, Velayati said despite intense lobbying behind the scenes by certain countries for hosting the next summit, Tehran was chosen and approved as venue for the 8th summit meet of heads of OIC states. In fact, he said, the 1991 summit in Dakar, Senegal, where President Rafsanjani had participated, had already decided on Tehran as the venue for the 1997 meet.

Velayati said the rumours on Lebanon or Pakistan being the site of the next OIC summit were largely due to the shifting of the venue from Saudi Arabia to Morocco for the present summit.

He, however, expressed satisfaction that the issue had been laid to rest with the formal announcement of Iran as the venue for the next meeting of OIC heads of states.

On Iran's stands at Dar-el-Beida, the foreign minister said half of the issues approved by the summit were either proposed by Iran or supported by the Iranian delegation.

On the whole the OIC summit did not touch on any new topic opposed by Iran and the issues Iran was against were the same as discussed before, he added.

Elaborating on the issues discussed, the foreign minister said Iran believed that Western countries should endeavour to repair their shattered image among Islamic countries.

He pointed to the setting up of a fund to render aid to the defenseless people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the proposal to station forces from Islamic states in the UN-declared safe havens in Bosnia, as other clauses approved at Morocco meeting.

Velayati quoting Bosnian President Ali Izetbegovic, said Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey, were the countries which provide Bosnia most financial assistance, without the help of which as well as aid from other Islamic states there would be no Bosnia on the world map today.

Saying that almost all OIC member states have voiced readiness to provide unconditioned help to the Bosnian people, the Iranian foreign minister remarked that the 52 members were ready to send forces to Bosnia with full logistic support if UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] forces withdrew.

On Palestine, Velayati said, according to the OIC chief the member states did not share identical views on recognizing the Gaza-Jericho accord with the Zionist entity. He stressed Iran maintained its stand not to accept the so-called peace deal.

Velayati arrived here from Dar-el-Beida Friday morning.

Pakistan

Reports on U.S. Secretary's Visit Refuted

BK1812155894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has rejected reports published in some newspapers that the purpose of U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry's visit to Pakistan next month is aimed at persuading Pakistan to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He said the visit is part of high-level U.S. visits, which are aimed at assessing ways to boost Pakistan-U.S. relations. The spokesman said that the U.S. secretary of defense also will visit other countries of the region. Issues which will be discussed with him during his visit to Pakistan include restrictions against Pakistan due to the Pressler Amendment and ways to remove them. The spokesman said that as far as the nuclear issue is concerned, Pakistan has categorically said that it will accept the steps to check nuclear proliferation which can be applied in the South Asian region on the basis of equality and without any discrimination.

Action Taken To Resolve Karachi Problems

Leghari Discusses Initiatives

BK1812133294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said Pakistan is an indivisible entity and its integrity will be maintained at any cost. He was talking to newsmen after inaugurating the international seminar on new technologies and their application in industries in Islamabad today. He said the government has taken a number of initiatives to improve the situation in Karachi.

[Begin Leghari's recording] The Army has been withdrawn. Other civilian law enforcing agencies have taken their place. Now, this is a very major development. Similarly, other decisions for improving the situation and law and order have been taken at the provincial level and at the federal level and those are being put into effect. There has been more induction of police. They are improving the training of the police. They [police] are being provided with equipment which will make their task easier and be more effective against criminal elements.

Similarly, there is a Karachi Package, which is a huge package, which will remove some of the major irritants and deficiencies. Then, there are also a number of schemes. Twenty-five crore rupees have been allocated to each districts of Karachi, there are five districts. Work concerning people's civic amenities etcetera are being

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undertaken. Mass transit scheme is being undertaken for Karachi. The power shortage—the shortage of power generally and also distribution problems of electricity—in Karachi, those are being looked into. So, there are number of issues that are being undertaken.

At the same time, the provincial government is talking, they have been talking, to the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] and other parties and now those talks, we hope, will move into a stage where positive results will be achieved. [end recording]

Life 'Almost Paralyzed' Due to Strike

BK1812155094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Normal life in Karachi was almost paralyzed today as a result of the strike observed against the incidents of violence. Shops and business establishments remained closed. Private transporters also did not operate their vehicles in protest against burning of vehicles by lawbreakers. Only government vehicles piled on some routes. Common people had to face difficulties and attendance in schools, colleges and offices remained very thin. Some incidents of firing in several parts of the city have also been reported.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1440 GMT on 18 December adds: "Six people were killed—three of them in firing by para-military rangers—and 20 were injured in this strike-crippled city Sunday [18 December], witnesses and hospital sources said.

"The rangers opened fire in the city's newly-created Malir district in a melee as people gathered around after the troops started dragging men out of their homes in a predominantly Shi'ite section, witnesses said.

"The operation to round up suspects from homes was believed to be linked to an ongoing drive to detain activists from militant Sunni and Shia groups, following recurring sectarian violence.

"Police said a dozen people had been arrested in the city so far, but sources said about 100 members of the Sunni Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) and the Shiite Tehrik Jafria Pakistan (TJP) parties had been taken into custody.

"Police said sectarian tension prevailed in the Malir area throughout the day but they declined to give the details of the incident involving the shooting by rangers."]

Minister Avows Firm Action

BK1912051394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal government will move firmly to restore peace in Karachi. The interior minister, Nasirullah Khan Babar, told the National Assembly in Islamabad last night that situation in Karachi has deteriorated due to a number of factors. These include ethnic, sectarian, and economic issues. He expressed concern over the situation and said the government will address all these factors in an effective manner. The interior minister said the situation somewhat worsened after withdrawal of the army as there was lack of coordination among the law enforcing agencies. It was now improving. He said the federal government is giving time to the provincial government to handle the situation. If it could not tackle it then the center will move in. He referred to the strike calls made on Friday [16 December] and yesterday, and said the government will come hard upon the law breakers.

The House also continued discussion on the president's address to the joint session of parliament. The minister for social welfare and special education, Dr. Sher Afghan, in his speech said adoption of an effective resolution on Kashmir at the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] summit at Casablanca would provide impetus to the struggle of the Kashmiri people. He invited the opposition to work together with the government to promote a consensus on the issues of national importance like Kashmir, nuclear program, and solidarity and defense of the country.

Mr. Ejazul Haq, PML [Pakistan Muslim League]-Nawaz Group, who opened the debate on behalf of the opposition criticized the government for its handling of the Karachi situation and price hike. He alleged that corruption is rampant and the opposition is being victimized, law and order is fragile, and the government seems to be willing to compromise national interests on nuclear program. He was of the view that the economy is shattered due to wrong policies of the government. The House will now meet again this afternoon.

Sri Lanka

Anti-VOA Protesters March Near U.S. Embassy

BK1412121294 Hong Kong AFP in English 1142 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Dec 14 (AFP)—Buddhist and Roman Catholic clergy joined a protest here Wednesday [14 December] against the setting up of a Voice of America (VOA) relay station in Sri Lanka.

The peaceful march ended outside the American Embassy here with the demonstrators handing over a protest letter to US ambassdor Teresita Schaffer asking for the withdrawl of the VOA project.

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The new Colombo government has appointed a ministerial team to decide the future of a controversial VOA relay station approved by the former United National Party (UNP) government.

The UNP government had agreed the VOA could set up a transmitting facility within the predominantly Catholic Iranavila village despite repeated protests from the church and the local population.

Fishermen argued they stood to lose their traditional fishing rights and their land to the VOA facility which could transmit to the Middle East and South Asia.

LTTE Accepts Proposal for Cease-Fire

BK1212165094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Sri Lanka, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, LTTE, has accepted the government's proposal for a cease-fire in the 11-year ethnic war before Christmas. Disclosing this to newsmen in Colombo today, the Sri Lankan president, Ms. Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga, said she hoped the cessation of hostilities will come into force within two weeks. She said a team will be sent to the LTTE stronghold of Jaffna to discuss the modalities.

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